Battle Angel Alita

VIZ GRAPHIC NOVEL

BATTLE ANGEL ALITA

STORY AND ART BY

YUKITO KISHIRO

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STORY AND ART BY YUKITO KISHIRO

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GRAPHIC NOVELS BY YUKITO KISHIRO

BATTLE ANGEL ALITA
TEARS OF AN ANGEL
KILLING ANGEL
ASHEN VICTOR

ANGEL OF VICTORY
ANGEL OF REDEMPTION
ANGEL OF DEATH

ANGEL OF CHAOS
FALLEN ANGEL
ANGELS ASCENSION

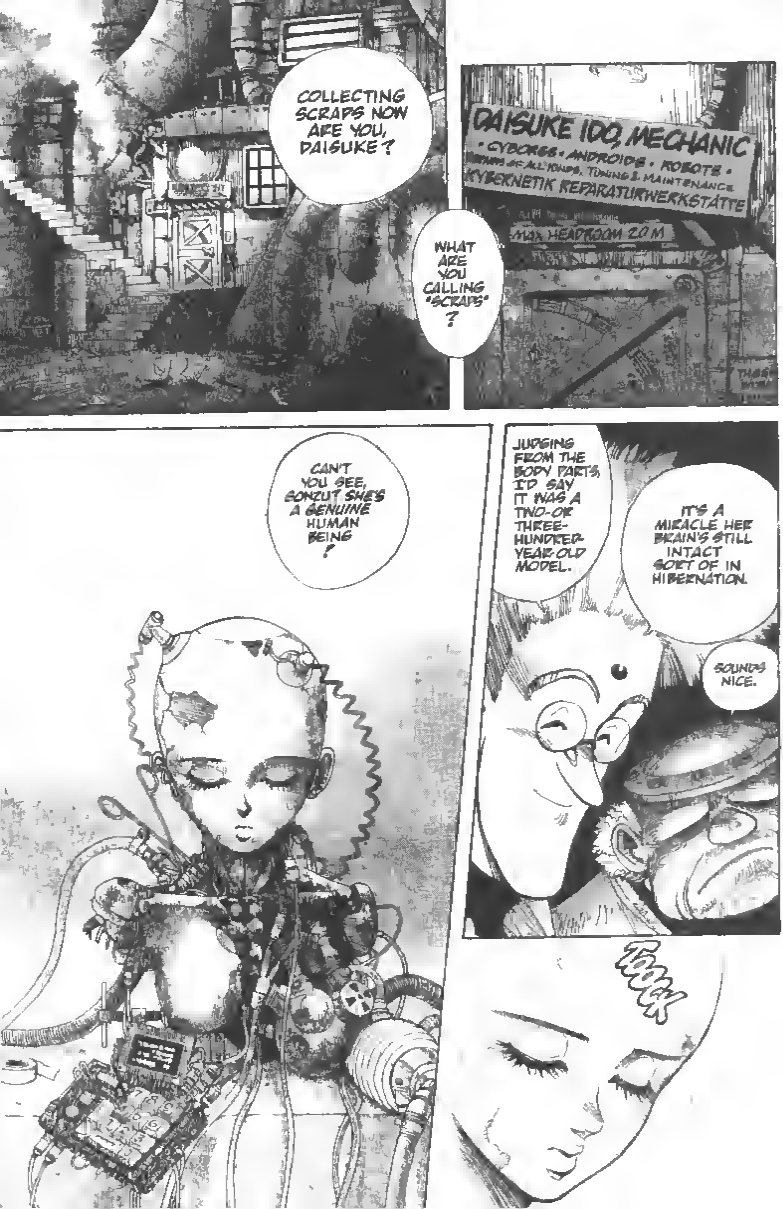
RUMB RUMB
THRRRMMMM
THE SCRAP YARD HOME TO THE RUBBISH AND REFUSE--BOTH HUMAN AND NON--OF TIPHARES A UTOPIA ABOVE THE CLOUDS
RUMM
MMM
KREK KAKREK
KATUNK
TWNK
TWNK
TWUNK

RUSTY ANGEL

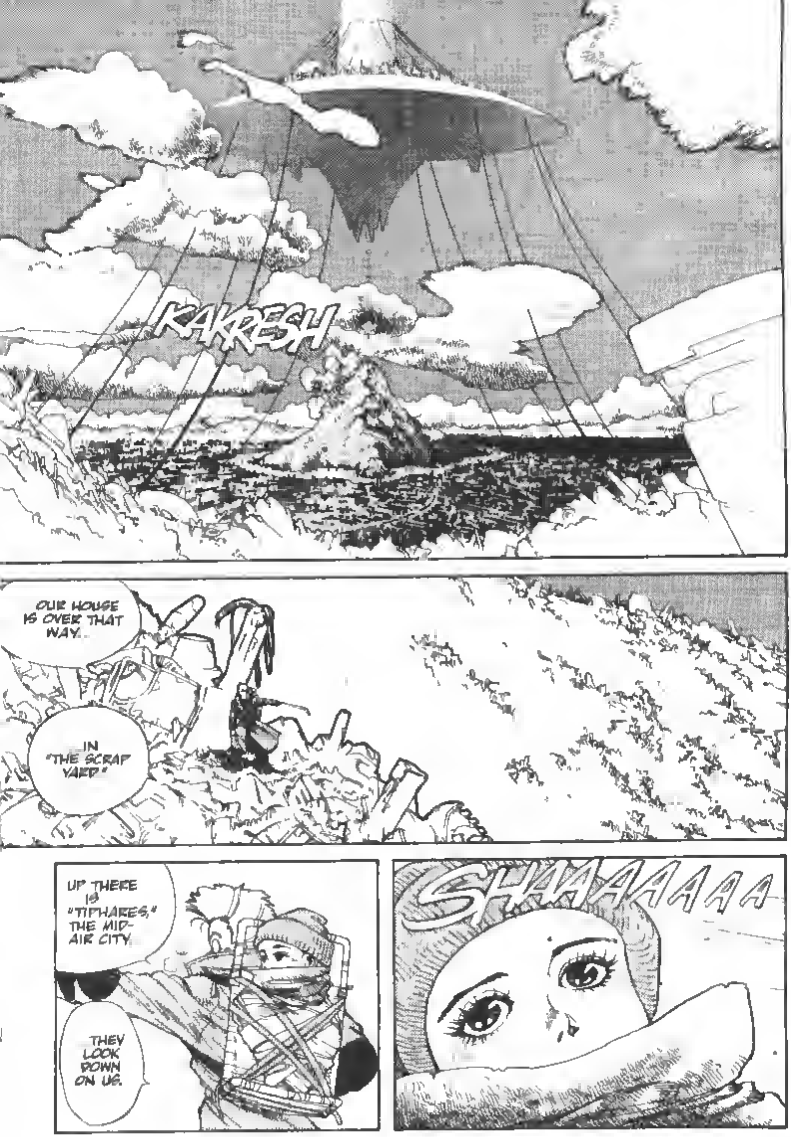
Battle 1 : Reclamation

SKRAK
PLSHT
KLINK
KLINK
HM-HMM?
FWP
FWP
FWP

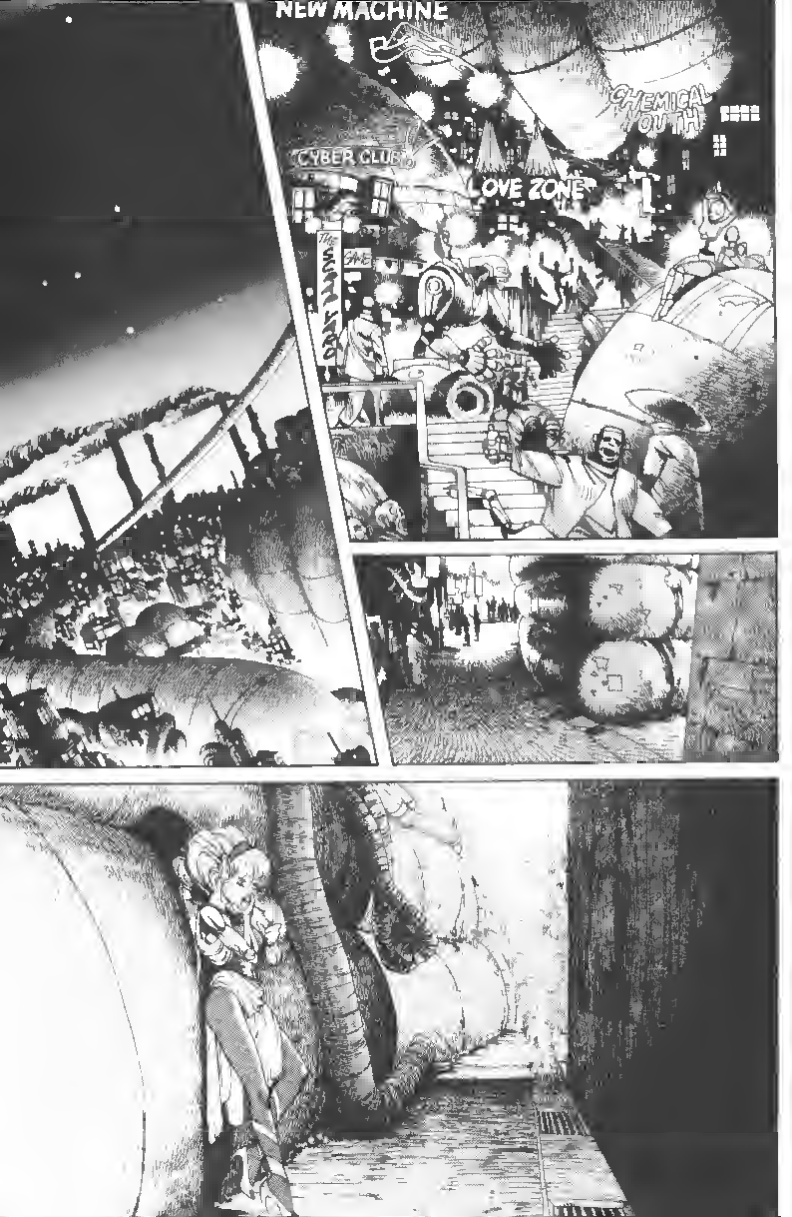
uff
uff
WH-WAIT A SECOND!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS...!
KLINK KLANG
heh heh heh...
HA! HA!

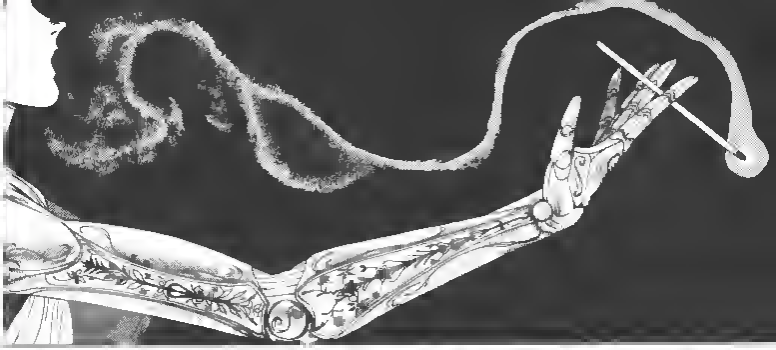

COLLECTING SCRAPS NOW ARE YOU, DAISUKE?
WHAT ARE YOU CALLING "SCRAPS"?
DAISUKE IDO, MECHANIC
• CYBORGS • ANDROIDS • ROBOTS •
REPAIRS OF ALL KINDS, TUNING & MAINTENANCE
CYBERNETIK REPARATURWERKSTÄTTE
MAX. HEADROOM 2.0 M
CAN'T YOU SEE, GONZUI? SHE'S A GENUINE HUMAN BEING!
JUDGING FROM THE BODY PARTS, I'D SAY IT WAS A TWO-OR THREE-HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD MODEL.
IT'S A MIRACLE HER BRAIN'S STILL INTACT SORT OF IN HIBERNATION.
SOUNDS NICE.
FLICK

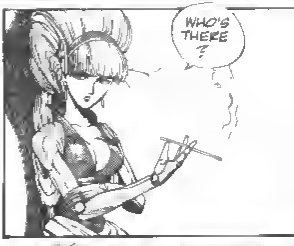
HEY, LOOK-- SHE'S AWAKE!
SO?
HI! MY NAME'S IDO. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
N-NAME...?
TOO BAD. IDO. SHE'S LOST HER MEMORY.
SHE'LL REMEMBER-- IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME!
YOU GONNA RAISE HER?
"ALITA"? STARTING TODAY, YOUR NAME IS "ALITA"!
MAYBE I'LL HAVE TO RESTORE HER BODY BUT FIRST...
HMM. GOT IT!
"WAIT A MINUTE-- WASN'T THAT YOUR CAT, THE ONE THAT DIED LAST MONTH?
WASN'T IT A BOY?!
I DON'T CARE! IT'S JUST UNTIL SHE REMEMBERS HER OWN NAME...


KAKRESH
OUR HOUSE IS OVER THAT WAY...
IN "THE SCRAP YARD"
UP THERE IS "TIPHARES," THE MID-AIR CITY.
THEY LOOK DOWN ON US.
SHAAAAAAAA

I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU, ALITA.
YOU MUST HAVE A REAL NAME, A FAMILY, A HOMETOWN.
MY.. REAL NAME...
I DON'T KNOW...
HMM. I WAS HOPING WE'D FIND SOME THINGS TO USE FOR YOUR BODY...
TINK
...BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK THAT WAY...
WELL, THERE'S NO RUSH!
YEAH!
YOU CAN LIVE WITH ALITA FOR NOW, RIGHT?
DAMN! DAMN!
LOOK, ALITA-- IT'LL BE SOME TIME BEFORE YOU'RE UP AND RUNNING.
KANG KANG
...BUT I'LL MAKE IT WORTH THE WAIT I PROMISE YOU'LL CHERISH THESE DAYS. THESE MEMORIES


NEW MACHINE
CYBER CLUB
LOVE ZONE
CHEMICAL MOUTH
THE SCARLET LADY




WHO'S THERE ?

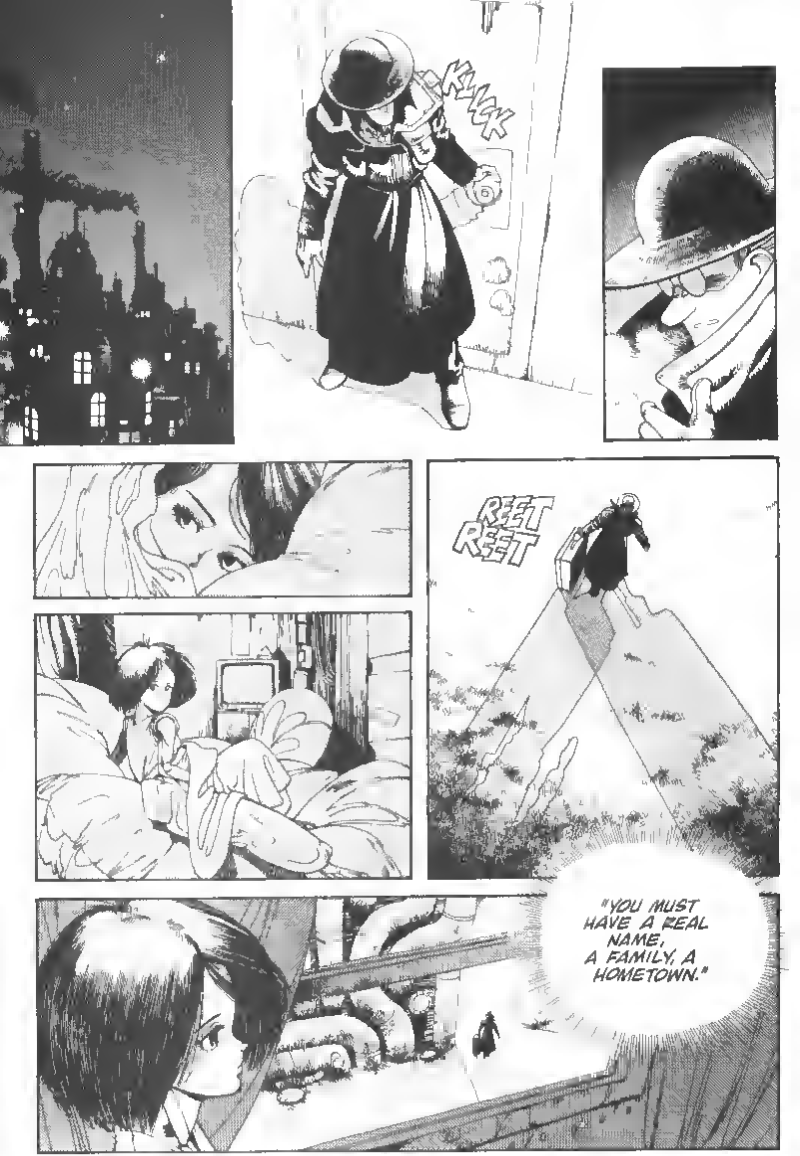
SKLORSHT

THAT'S IT!
NOW GIVE THEM A TRY, ALITA.
THEY'RE... BEAUTIFUL!
THANK YOU, DAISUKE...
BUT--BUT WEREN'T THEY EXPENSIVE...?
OH, I JUST FOUND THEM AT THE USED PARTS SHOP
NEXT WE'LL GET YOUR LEGS..

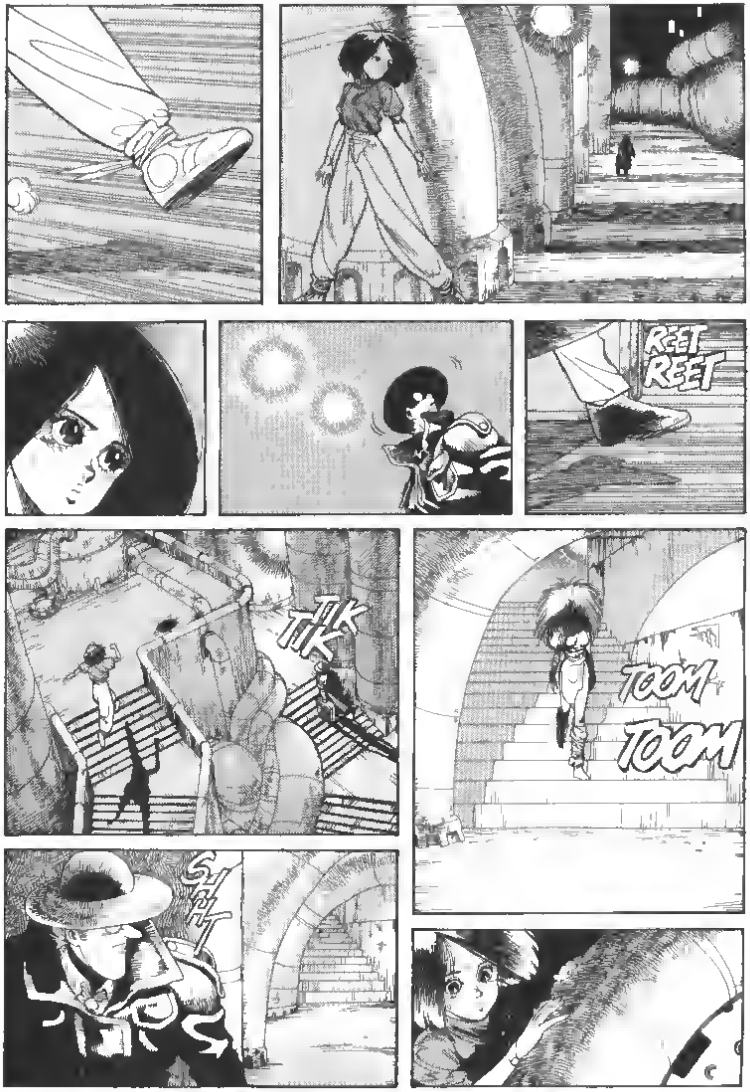
I'LL MAKE YOU EVEN PRETTIER YET...
KREEE
KLICK
REET REET
REET REET

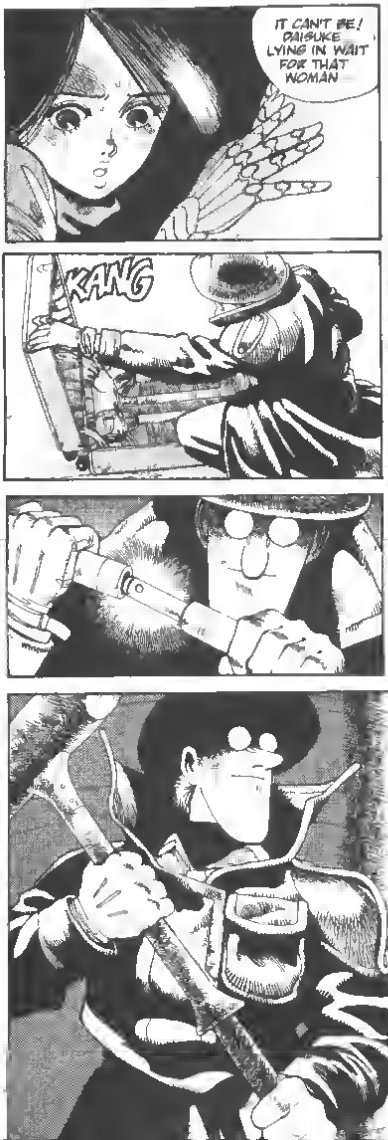
MR. GONZU!
WELL! IF IT ISN'T ALITA--UP AND RUNNING AROUND.
SID MEN
TRIPLE RAMEN
OIL
RED
TIPHARES YAKI
GYOZA
SUPER GARLIC!
I ALMOST DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU
I KNOW--ISN'T IT GREAT?!
YOU WATCH YOURSELF AT NIGHT, YOU HEAR ?!
THERE'S ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE CRAZIES OUT THERE, SLITTING THE THROATS OF CUTE YOUNG THINGS--JUST LIKE YOU

THOSE LEGS WORKING OUT ALL RIGHT, ALITA?
THEY'RE WONDERFUL
DAISUKE! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR ARM?
OH--YOU MEAN THIS?
I GOT A LITTLE CARELESS, I GUESS. NO BIG DEAL.
HEH!
MUST'VE HURT HIMSELF WHEN HE WENT OUT LAST NIGHT.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
WHAT IS HE HIDING? WHAT?
LOOKS LIKE YOUR PROBLEM IS METAL FATIGUE.


KLICK
BEEP BEEP
"YOU MUST HAVE A REAL NAME, A FAMILY, A HOMETOWN."

RIGHT NOW, DAISUKE IS ALL I HAVE
AND THAT'S ENOUGH! I DON'T NEED A REAL NAME
I'LL JUST BE "ALITA"
SWEEP
TUP TUP
"IT'LL BE SOME TIME BEFORE YOU'RE UP AND RUNNING
BUT IT'LL MAKE IT WORTH THE WAIT, I PROMISE"
" SLITTING THE THROATS OF CUTE YOUNG THINGS. "
FUSH
WHAT'S GOING ON?-- I HAVE TO KNOW!


REET
REET
TIK
TOOM
TOOM
SHIT


IT CAN'T BE! DAISUKE LYING IN WAIT FOR THAT WOMAN
KANG
KATING
TANG
TOOM
TOOM

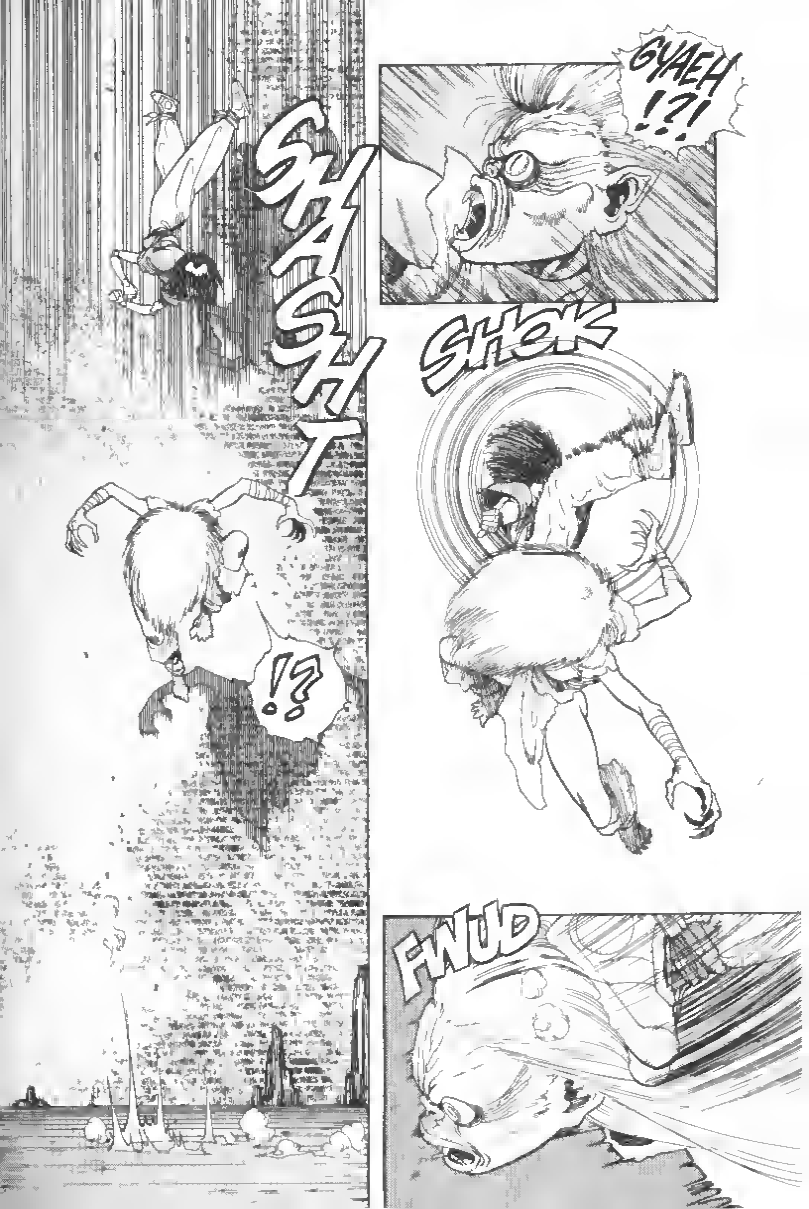
DON'T!
!
WHUMP
ALITA, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT-!
I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT, DAISUKE?
THESE ARMS AND LEGS... YOU KILLED PEOPLE FOR THEM, DIDN'T YOU!?

WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
DON'T--YOU CAN'T MAKE ME A PART OF THIS!
FWAP
UNGH!
SHE'S GONE!
SHHSHT
?!
ALITA!
MIGUEL

EH?
SKREE
THWOK
TWANG
AIYEE EEEK!
FWEESH
!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, ALITA!
THIS WOMAN'S THE KILLER!

TOOP
FWASH
GYA SAJ AVAL!
SHING
WOK
UH!
FWSHT
UH-OH

WHUP
YII!
ALITA!
YOU THINK--
--I'LL LET YOU--
--KILL DAISUKE!?
FWSSH
UFF!
GADOOM
SHT

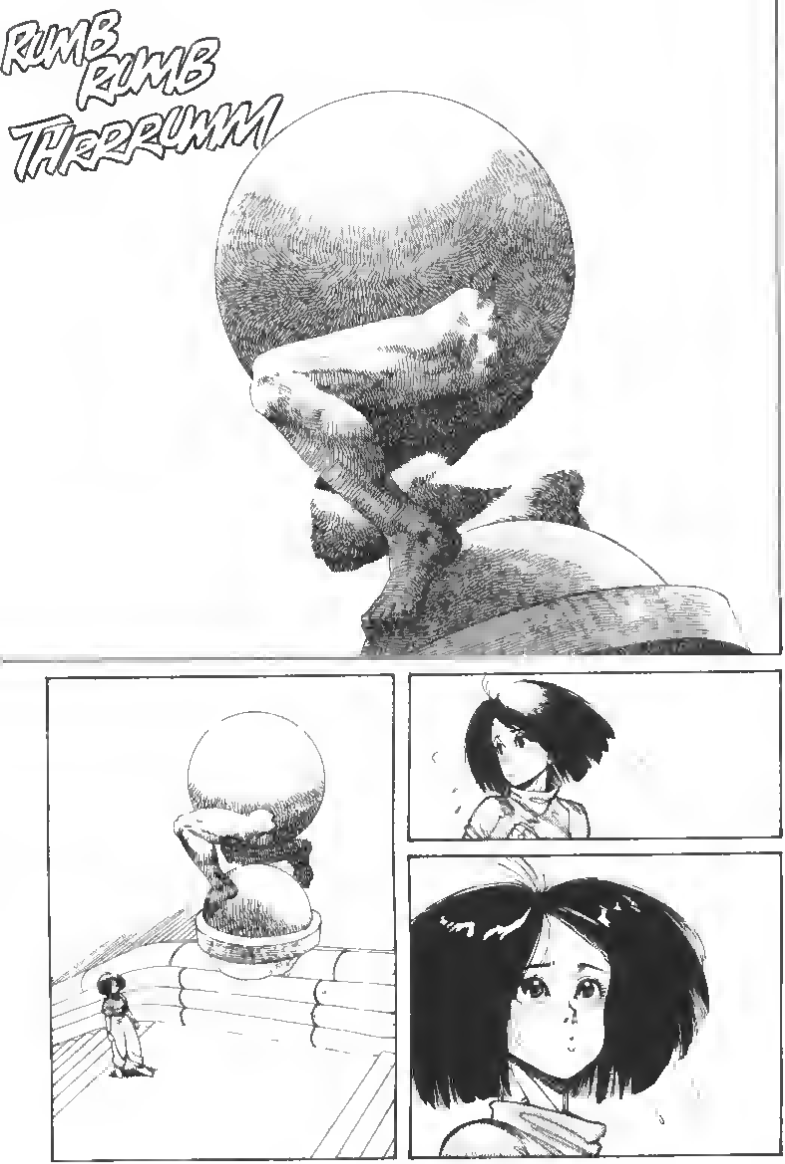

GYAEH !?!
SHOK
SMASH!
!?
FWUD

*PANZER KUNST OR THE "ARMORED ARTS" SAID TO BE THE MOST POWERFUL OF THE VARIOUS FIGHTING TECHNIQUES DEVELOPED FOR HUMANOID CYBORGS

FACTORY 33
SO THE MURDERER WAS A MUTANT WOMAN WHO SUDDENLY WENT BERSERK, HUH?
CONSIDERING THE LOOKS OF HER, I CAN SORT OF UNDERSTAND WHY SHE WOULD ONLY GO AFTER WOMEN.
BEEP ATAK
Taka-Taka
YOU REALLY WENT THE DISTANCE FOR THIS ONE, EH, 100?
12
JNG
SHE'S WORTH A FULL HUNDRED-THOUSAND CHIPS, THOUGH.
YOU STILL NEED FEMALE BODY PARTS? GOT A NICE NEW SHIPMENT...

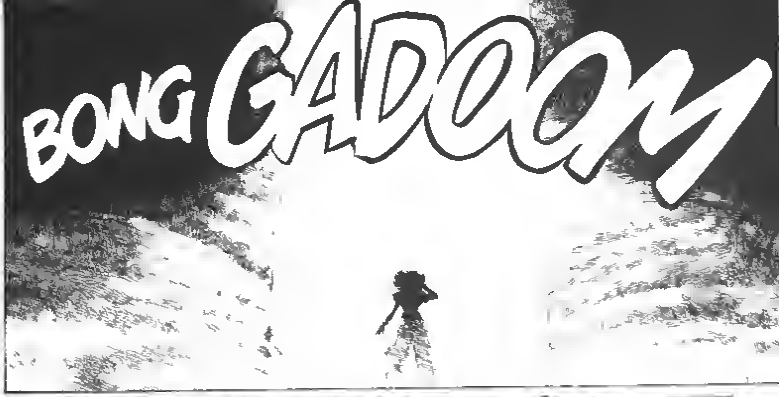
IN THE OLD DAYS BEFORE THE FACTORIES TOOK OVER THERE WAS SOMETHING CALLED A POLICE FORCE THAT DEALT WITH CRIMINALS
THAT JUST WOULDN'T WORK IN THE SCRAP YARD. SO FACTORY 33 PAYS OFF BIG IN CHIPS FOR ANY OF US STUPID ENOUGH TO TAKE TO THE CHASE
SORRY I JUMPED TO CONCLUSIONS, DAISUKE.
SORRY?! I WAS TRYING TO HELP YOU, AND YOU ENDED UP SAVING MY LIFE!
THANK YOU ALITA YOU'RE AN ANGEL
YOU THINK ?
YOU GAVE ME MY LIFE, DAISUKE... IF I'M AN ANGEL, WHAT DOES THAT MAKE YOU. ?
NO MORE STUNTS THOUGH YOU HEAR ?!
YOUR BODY STILL NEEDS A LOT OF WORK
YES SIR !

FIGHTING BLOOD
Battle 2: Awakening


RUMB
RUMB
THERRUMM

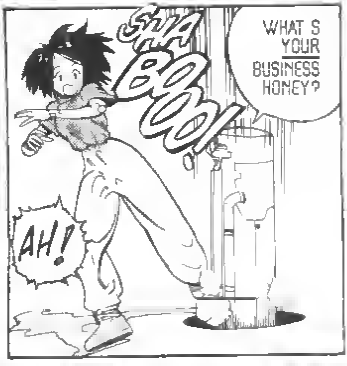
FACTORY 33
FACTORY 33
I'LL BECOME A HUNTER-WARRIOR, TOO! JUST LIKE DAISUKE!

WHAT KIND OF NONESENSE IS THAT !?
I DIDN'T DIG YOU OUT OF THE RUBBLE BECAUSE I SAW A MONSTER, A MILITARY MACHINE...
BUT...
.. I SAW SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL-- AND YOU GROW MORE BEAUTIFUL EVERY DAY!
BUT FIGHTING-- FIGHTING IS AN UGLY THING..
..AND UGLINESS IS THE LAST THING I WANT FOR YOUR LIFE!
BUT I CAN'T JUST STAND BY WHILE YOU RISK YOURSELF, DAISUKE...
AND BESIDES..
..WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO LIVE THE LIFE YOU WANT FOR ME !? I'VE GOT TO FIND MY OWN WAY..
BONG BONG


BONG GADOOM

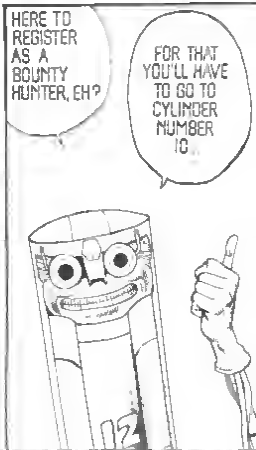
BONG
BONG
BONG

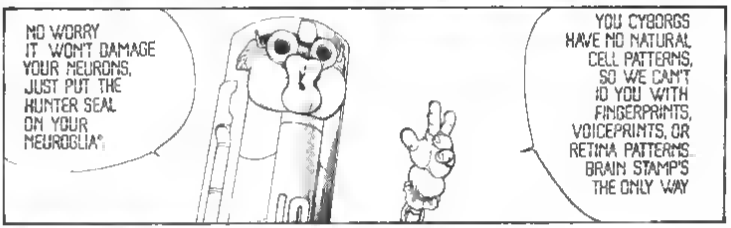
ISN'T ANYONE AROUND..
!?


SHA BOO!
WHAT'S YOUR BUSINESS HONEY?
AH!

ARE YOU A GOOD WITCH OR A BAD WITCH?
SHA BOOBOOBOO
BUT CHARE, BLANCHE, CHARE!
OHMIGAWD!

TWOOOSH


HERE TO REGISTER AS A BOUNTY HUNTER, EH?
FOR THAT YOU'LL HAVE TO GO TO CYLINDER NUMBER 10...
02



*NEUROGLIA: OF THE TWO TYPES OF CELLS THAT MAKE UP THE BRAIN, NEURONS OCCUPY A MERE 2.85% OF THE VOLUME WITH THE GREATER PART BEING FILLED UP BY THE GLUE-LIKE NEUROGLIA

I'LL BEHEAD AS MANY CRIMINALS AS IT TAKES--FOR YOU, CHILD.
SPLASH ME WITH BLOOD--
--BUT YOU MUST REMAIN PURE, UNSULLIED... AS YOU ARE IN MY DREAMS!
KRAK
YOUR DREAMS?! BUT WHAT ABOUT ME?!
WHUD
. IDIOT.

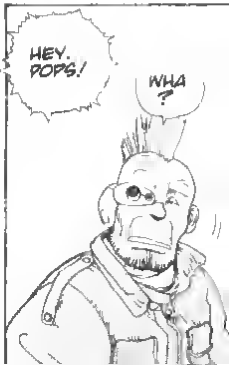
BEEP
STAMPING COMPLETE
GEE, IT'S REALLY EASY TO BECOME A HUNTER-WARRIOR, ISN'T IT?
EASY TO GET REGISTERED, YES.
..BUT THE DEED ITSELF-- THAT'S DIFFERENT
WHAT POSSESSED YOU TO BECOME A HUNTER BABY?
THAT QUESTION-- I'VE HEARD IT BEFORE... A LONG TIME AGO...
WHY DO YOU FIGHT?
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'LL GAIN?
AT THAT TIME, TOO, I...
CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND..?

...I KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO.

SUSHI
DUMPLING

WERFF!

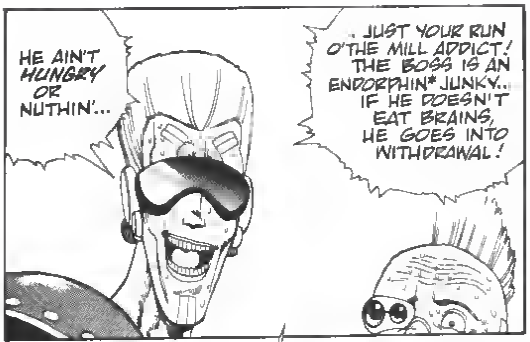
GOOD POOH! GOOD!

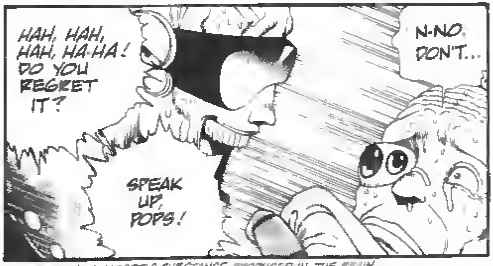

HEY, POPS!
WHA ?

HOW MUCH WILL YOU TAKE FOR THE DOG'S BRAINS?
HIS WHAT!?
POOH HERE'S MY ONLY FAMILY! WHY...
.....
UH OH
U. GU... GUGU... GU...
TWICH
YA KNOW, POPS
TWOK

YOU'RE GONNA REGRET THIS. YOU'LL WISH YOU'D GIVEN UP THE DOG AND BEEN DONE WITH IT.
Hee hee, hee
WH WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH SOMETHING LIKE BRAINS!?
ARF ARF
ook
OOK!
Ook
YAAARGH!
PAH-LEASE! WHAT A DISPLAY...
GAAAA
RRRRRIPP
GYAA AAH!!

HA, HEH, HEH IT'S STARTED, AND THERE AIN'T NO TURNING BACK!
BOOM
EEEEEEE!
TWIK
NHHHH!
SCHLURRP!
FWIK FWAK
OH, YUCK! I DON'T BELIEVE IT...!





*ENDORPHIN: A NARCOTIC SUBSTANCE PRODUCED IN THE BRAIN. ENDORPHIN MEANS LITERALLY "MORPHINE MADE INSIDE THE BODY." BETA ENDORPHINS HAVE A PAIN-RELIEVING EFFECT 65 TIMES THAT OF MORPHINE

DAMN !
DAMN !
PISH
KER
PLASH
"YOUR DREAMS?! BUT WHAT ABOUT ME?!"
uff
uff
Ha...
HA HA HA HA HA!

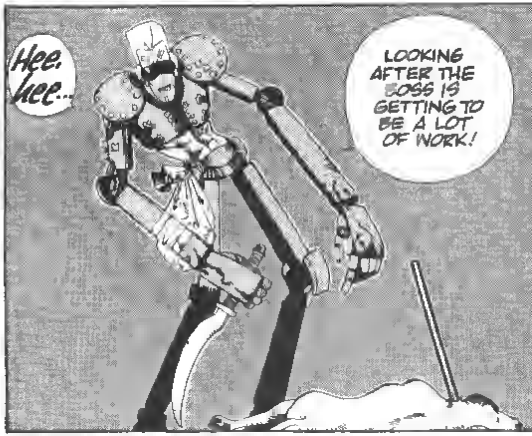
YOU'RE RIGHT, ALITA--
YOU'RE RIGHT!
HaHaHa
HOW ARROGANT TO DREAM OF CONTROLLING YOUR LIFE-- OR ANYONE'S ?
YOUR LIFE IS YOUR OWN...
PLUNK
THE "PANZER KUNST" TECHNIQUE ALITA USED UNCONSCIOUSLY THE OTHER DAY...
DOES SHE HAVE FIGHTING BLOOD RUNNING IN HER VEINS, EVEN THOUGH SHE'S LOST HER MEMORY...?
BUT.. WHY..
...OF ALL THINGS, WHY A HUNTER...?
I GUESS IT'S...
...DESTINY...

BUT THERE'S ONE THING YOU'VE GOT WRONG, ALITA...
SNAKT
KA-TING TANG
YOU ARE NOT THE ONLY REASON WHY I LIVE ON AS..
A HUNTER-WARRIOR...

KLAK
KLAK
RROWR
KLAK

SPLIKT
EEE YULP!

YAP YAP YAP


Hee. hee..
LOOKING AFTER THE BOSS IS GETTING TO BE A LOT OF WORK!

SLARK!

TO THINK THAT I, THE GREAT IZUCHI, HAS GOTTA HUNT DOGS' HEADS..
PLOP

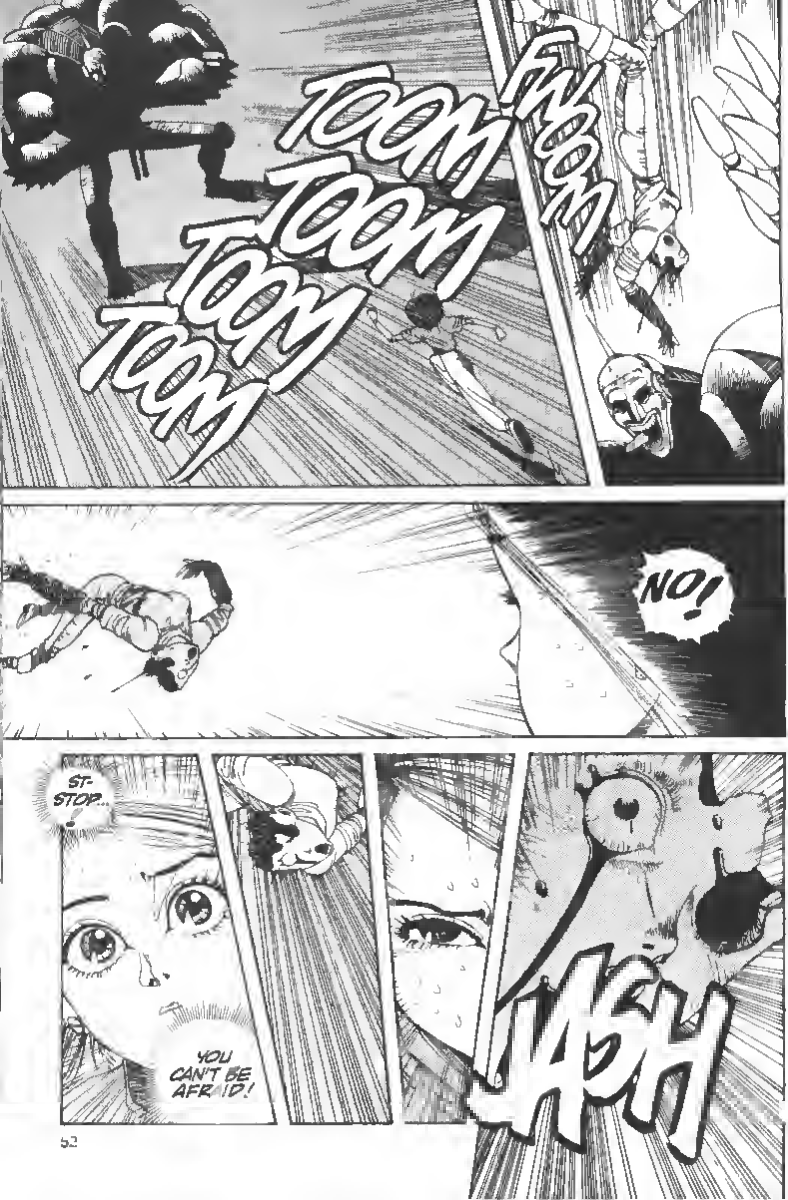
...BUT, MAN, THAT LOOK ON POP'S FACE THIS AFTERNOON WAS KILLER.
HAH HA HAHA!

HUH !?
SOOOSH
SKLORSH
TOOKA
TOOKA
TOOKA
I LIVE FOR THE RUSH-- THIS ONE MOMENT OF ECSTASY.
THWUD

I KILL FOR MY OWN SAKE..
...NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS...
TWUFF
FWASH
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE THIS SIDE OF ME..
...DIDN'T WANT YOUR LIFE TO TURN TOWARD THE SHADOWS.
OH, ALITA...

SKRUNCHA MUNCH
SCHLURPA BURP
SLISH LISH ISH
!

GWA HAHA HA...
GET AHOLD OF YOURSELF, ALITA... YOU'RE STRONGER THAN YOU KNOW...
KA TANG


FWOOM
TOOM
TOOM
TOOM
NO!
ST-STOP...
YOU CAN'T BE AFRAID!
SLASH

SWISH
SMASH
!
TWEEOOWEEOWEEO
GRRR!
SHOK
SMASH

KRAKATOONG
!?
NO! MY TECHNIQUE-- NOT GOOD ENOUGH !?
AAAA!

GRROWR!
SHAAA!
SPA
KISH

TORN ASUNDER
Battle 3: Values

GWAHA-HAHAHA!
!
SHAAAA

WHSSH
NO!
GOT TO STOP MY FALL!
THWUM
FWASH
KREK
KRAK
THWUK
UNGH!
UMP

WHUGH ?!
WHSH
GOT TO SPIN!
SKLIRK

YEEARGH!
REEEEEEEE
SPLAK
YAYAYAAGH!
SPLSH

!
A-ALITA!
SPLORT
GAAKHR!
REE-REE-REE
UNG
UNH
AHHHHHHH!
TNAK TWAK
SPLORP

tocka tock a tock
SPLURT
!
KAKRESH
AHH!

AH!
KAKRINK
G...
GA...
G..
G...
GA..
G-G-GAH!

GIRL!
RROWWR
M-MY EYE...THE GREAT MAKAKU'S EYE...
N-NOT ENOUGH N-N-ENDORPHINS!
P-P-PAIN!
PISH PISH
B-BRAINS. I'VE GOT TO G-GUCK BRAINS!
SLORP
TOK
UH!
AAGH!
SKITCH

NOOO!
TMP
TMP TMP
BASTARD
?
FWOOOM

SHOOM
KA-TOOM

KRANG
UGHH
KRAK
KREK
FWISH
FWASH
DIE!

KA-KLANG
!?
KEKAKRASH
WHERE'S HIS HEAD!?

GONE, I GUESS...
SMASHED TO DUST..
ALITA !
THE POOR THING..
SHUREERUREE
...HER SKULL... IT'S CRACKED...
...GOT TO FIX IT.. RIGHT AWAY..

.....
WHA-?!
GWAHA HAHA HAHAA!
TWIK
BL.AM
SPLAT

OHH!
AAAAGH!
THUD
SKLOF
uff!
hff!

GWAHA HAHA HA!

& SO.. YOU WERE ONLY A HEAD ALL ALONG...

SKLREE
SKLREEE

SLRK
SLRK

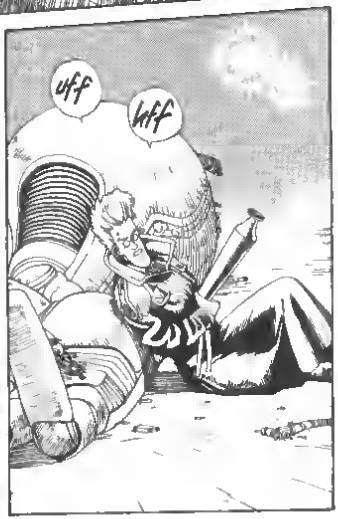
I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE...

..NOBODY CAN TAKE MY LIFE!
SKYR SHT
NOBODY!! GWAHA HAAA!

HE MF!
YOU!
HMMM!
RIGHT!
I'VE BURNED BOTH YOUR FACES INTO THIS EYE!
ZSH
I WON'T FORGET!
SLRP SLRP
WITHOUT FAIL!
WITHOUT FAIL I AM GOING TO SLURP UP THOSE BRAINS OF YOURS!
SINCE LOSING YOUR BODY, YOU'VE SUDDENLY BECOME VERY ARTICULATE, HAVEN'T YOU?
HEH, HEH.. I SUPPOSE MY INTELLIGENCE CAN BE IMPACTED BY THE BODY I POSSESS...
IT'S LIKE NIETZSCHE SAID..

THE MIND IS NOTHING BUT A PLAYTHING OF THE BODY!
GWAHA-HAHA-HAAA!
SKRT

SPLISH


uff
uff

DAMN, HE'S SCARY!
THERE'S BEEN A PRICE ON THAT HEAD FOR YEARS, BUT NO ONE'S HAD THE GUTS TO GO AFTER HIM...
MAKAKU... SO THAT'S HIM...
A-ALITA...
...TOOK ON MORE THAN YOU COULD HANDLE, FIRST TIME OUT...
...BAD LUCK, HUH?
WELL... DAMN LUCK, THEN!
I WON'T LET YOU ROT IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, ALITA!

I WON'T LET YOU END UP AS A MEAL FOR A MONSTER LIKE THAT
UNGHooo
U... Guh..
CHONK
AAAGH!
THWORK
SPLASH
I'VE... GOT TO FIX YOUR BODY...

HUMAN BODY PARTS
IT'S THE FINISHING BLOW, THE "GRIND CUTTER!"
THE WARRIOR'S INNARDS HAVE SPILLED OUT ONTO THE MAT!
plop
THE CHAMPION, KINUBA, HAS SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED HIS TITLE FOR THE SIXTY-THIRD TIME!!
YEA!
YEA!
YEA!
uff
uff

hff
uff
hff!
SKREE
KREEK
uff
hff
GUH!
UGU...
UU...
THUMP

WHUD
UNGH!
GU!
WHAM
OHHH!
UFF
UFF
STICH

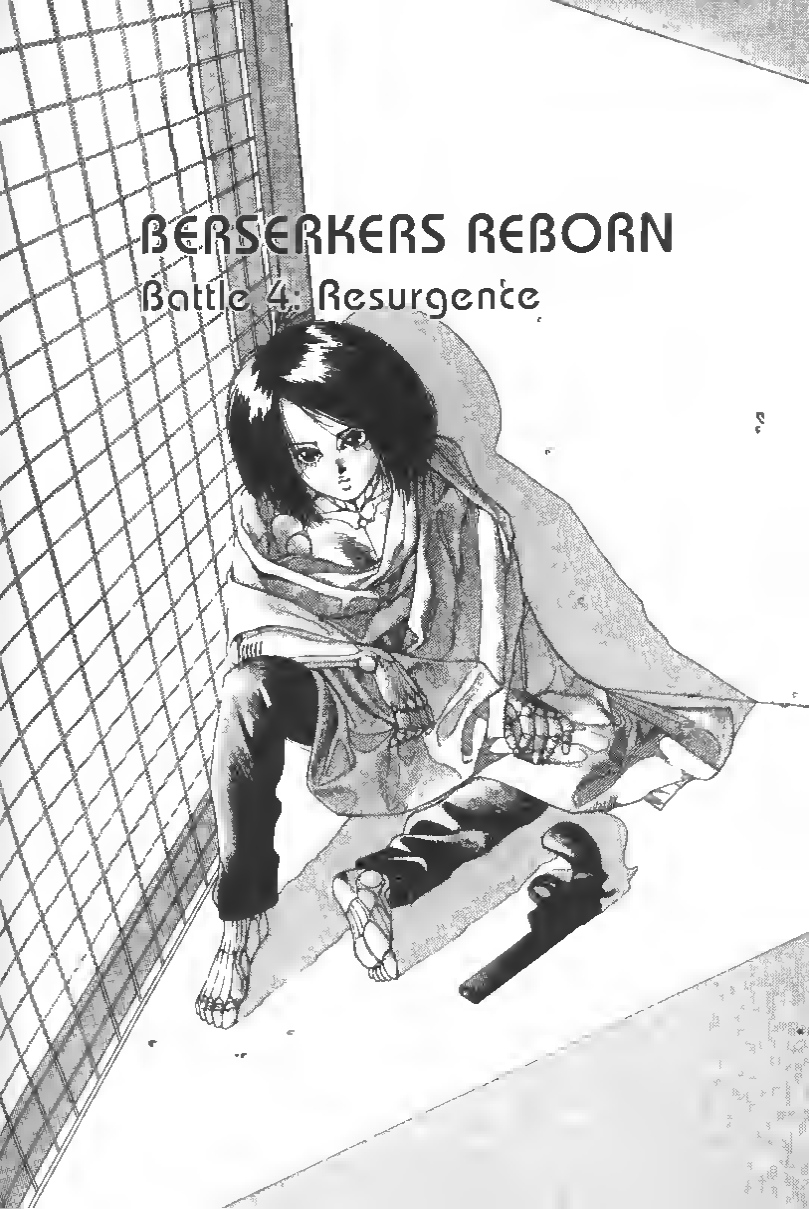
ALITA...
...A WARRIOR'S SPIRIT NEEDS A WARRIOR'S BODY...
HEH HEH HEH
SHHHH
YAHA HAHA !
...ONE FIT FOR BATTLE...
STENCH
MY DREAM WILL HAVE TO DIE... FOR YOU TO SURVIVE.
.. WITH THE POWER TO TAKE A LIFE WITH A SINGLE BLOW.

KACHIK
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO MAKE IT... IN THE SCRAP YARD!
BIP BEEP
BRRING BRRING
CALL
PHEW... HIC
WHO'D CALL AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT...?
BRRING
YEAH ?

HELLO!?
THERE'S NOTHING IN THIS WORLD OF VALUE... NOTHING WORTH RISKING OUR LIVES FOR...
EXCEPT, PERHAPS...
...WHAT LITTLE WE CAN CREATE OURSELVES.
WITHOUT YOU, ALITA, MY LIFE HAS NO VALUE..

BERSERKERS REBORN

Battle 4: Resurgence

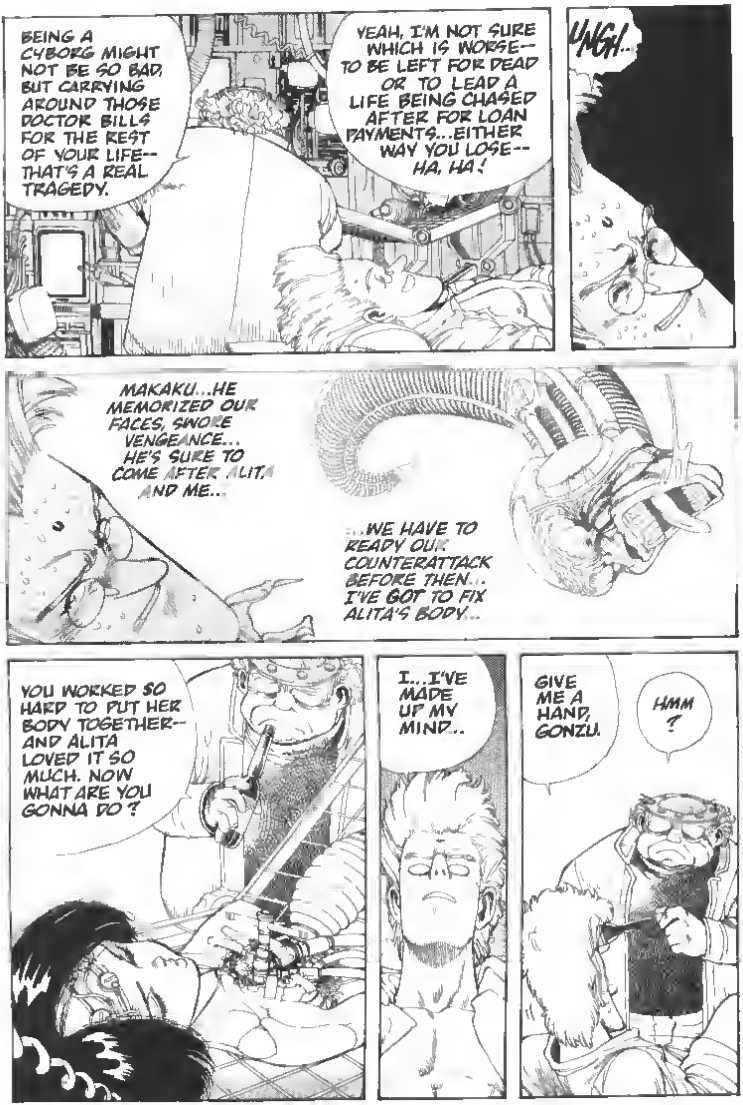


A CHILD... CRYING SOMEWHERE... IN THE DISTANCE...
...WAAH...
...AAH...
...WAAH...
...ABANDONED... ALONE...
wh..
wh..
THAT'S ME...
GRRRRMM
POK TOK

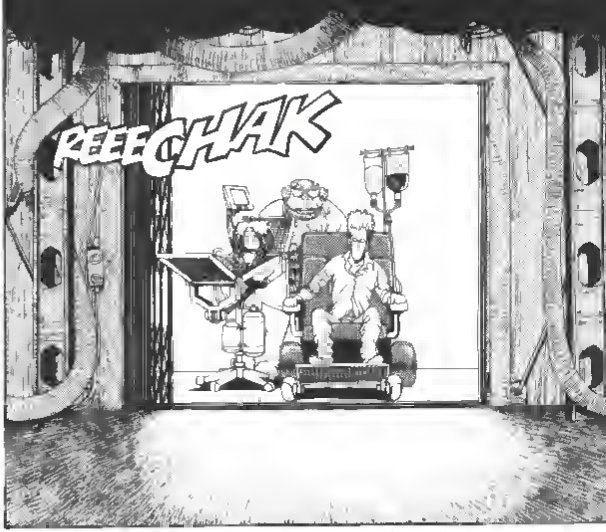
KATLONK
SKRUNCH
GRRRM
RRMM
RRMN!
CHIK KATAK
GRRRMM
KRESH
TONK

ka KRESH
TUNKA KRUNKA
YAAH!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, NOW...
DAISUKE...

LOOKS LIKE HER BRAIN SURVIVED WITHOUT ANY DAMAGE...
SHE'S HAVING A DREAM.
I HOPE IT'S A GOOD ONE ..
ALWAYS MOONING OVER ALITA ..
ISN'T IT TIME YOU WORRIED ABOUT YOURSELF A LITTLE?
YOU WERE LUCKY TO ESCAPE WITH YOUR VITAL ORGANS INTACT, DAISUKE!
BLOOD LOSS IS BAD ENOUGH-- BUT ONE WRONG MOVE AND THOSE QUACK DOCTORS WOULD HAVE MADE A CYBORG OUT OF YOU!
I'M GRATEFUL, GONZU-- REALLY.


BEING A CYBORG MIGHT NOT BE SO BAD, BUT CARRYING AROUND THOSE DOCTOR BILLS FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE-- THAT'S A REAL TRAGEDY.
YEAH, I'M NOT SURE WHICH IS WORSE-- TO BE LEFT FOR DEAD OR TO LEAD A LIFE BEING CHASED AFTER FOR LOAN PAYMENTS...EITHER WAY YOU LOSE-- HA, HA!
UNGH...
MAKAKU...HE MEMORIZED OUR FACES, SWORE VENGEANCE... HE'S SURE TO COME AFTER ALITA AND ME...
...WE HAVE TO READY OUR COUNTERATTACK BEFORE THEN... I'VE GOT TO FIX ALITA'S BODY...
YOU WORKED SO HARD TO PUT HER BODY TOGETHER-- AND ALITA LOVED IT SO MUCH. NOW WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO ?
I...I'VE MADE UP MY MIND...
GIVE ME A HAND, GONZU.
HMM ?

FWANG
KWANG
KLANG


REEECHAK

HOW LONG HAS THIS BASEMENT BEEN UNDER YOUR CLINIC?
ZMMMMM
IT'S SORT OF A SECRET THIS IS MY COLLECTION ROOM.

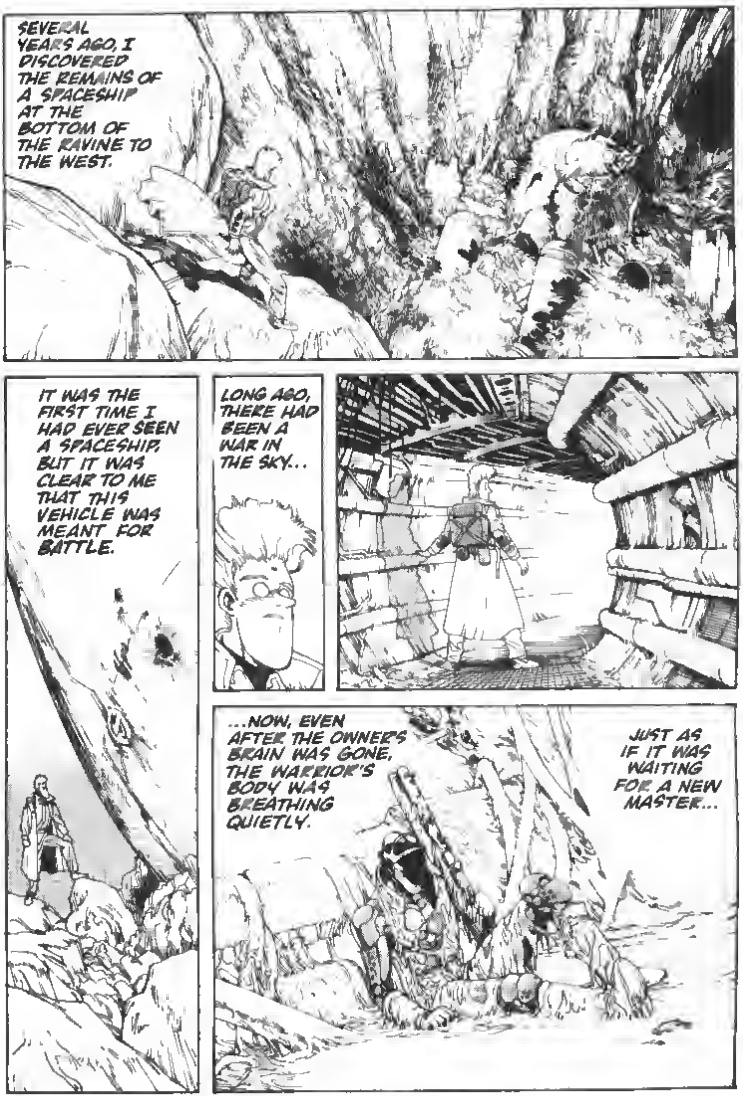
THIS IS IT!
KLIK

THESE THINGS WORK?
I WOULDN'T TOUCH THEM IF I WERE YOU!

WHEW--YOU'RE SOME KIND OF CRAZY, AREN'T YOU?

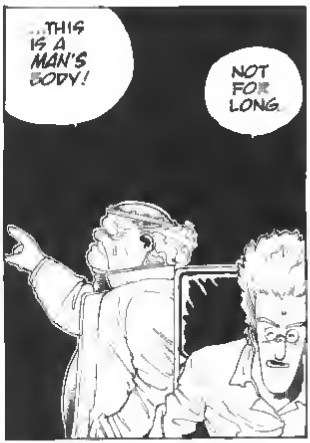
I'LL TURN THE POWER ON.
WHAT IS THIS? SOME KIND OF PIECEMEAL ANDROID !?
SHAKOOM
TWIK
CHAK
KLIKKLAK
CHAKKA
OH
WELL !
HRRRMM

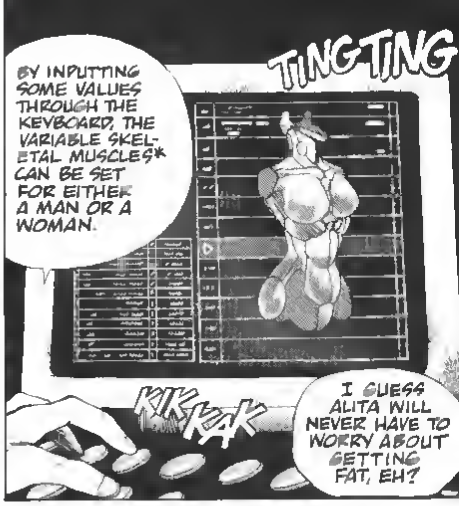
CHAKKA
KLINK
THWAKA
TIKKA
TAKK
THAKK
CHICKA
TACK
TICK
TOCK
OHHHH!
KASHOOM
CREEPY... THIS BODY'S ALIVE!
TWITCH
IT--IT'S MAGNIFICENT... WHY DIDN'T YOU ATTACH IT TO ALITA IN THE FIRST PLACE?
WELL, GONZU..
NOTHING'S EVER SIMPLE. THIS IS THE BODY OF A "BERSERKER."

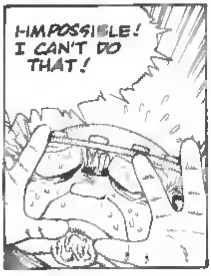

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, I DISCOVERED THE REMAINS OF A SPACESHIP AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RAVINE TO THE WEST.
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD EVER SEEN A SPACESHIP, BUT IT WAS CLEAR TO ME THAT THIS VEHICLE WAS MEANT FOR BATTLE.
LONG AGO, THERE HAD BEEN A WAR IN THE SKY...
...NOW, EVEN AFTER THE OWNER'S BRAIN WAS GONE, THE WARRIOR'S BODY WAS BREATHING QUIETLY.
JUST AS IF IT WAS WAITING FOR A NEW MASTER...

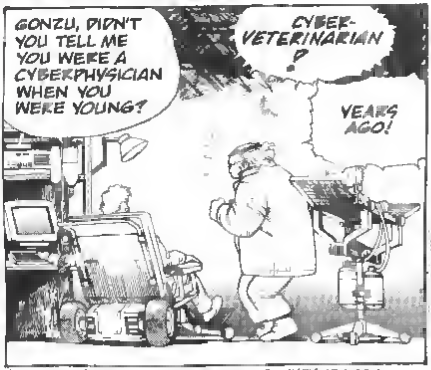
IT WAS A WORK OF ART.. CREATED WITH A HIGH TECHNOLOGY AND CRAFTS-MANSHIP THAT HAVE SINCE BEEN LOST.
I WAS FASCINATED, TO SAY THE LEAST.
BUT AS I STUDIED ITS STRUCTURE MY THINKING CHANGED.
THIS MACHINE-- IT'S A MURDER WEAPON! THE DESIGN MAKES IT GOOD FOR ONLY ONE THING!
IT'S CREATORS WANTED TO MAKE A HUMAN BEING INTO AN EFFICIENT WEAPON!
THEY SAY THAT IN OLDEN TIMES, ABLE-BODIED SOLDIERS WERE MADE OVER AND SENT TO WAR--AS "BERSERKERS."
THIS DISCOVERY WAS MY FIRST TASTE OF THE TRUE MADNESS OF WAR...
TO THINK OF HUMAN BEINGS AS NOTHING BUT TOOLS.. UNFORGIVABLE...
AND SO I LOCKED THE BERSERKER BODY DOWN HERE...
KASHANG

.....
B-BUT STILL-- YOU'VE MADE UP YOUR MIND TO ATTACH THIS TO ALITA?
I DON'T KNOW.. MAYBE I'M WRONG.
BUT ONE THING IS CERTAIN-- THIS GIRL KNOWS HOW TO USE POWER.
THE ONLY THING I CAN DO FOR HER NOW IS GIVE HER THAT POWER.
HMMM. I SEE... BUT... NOW THAT I LOOK AT IT...

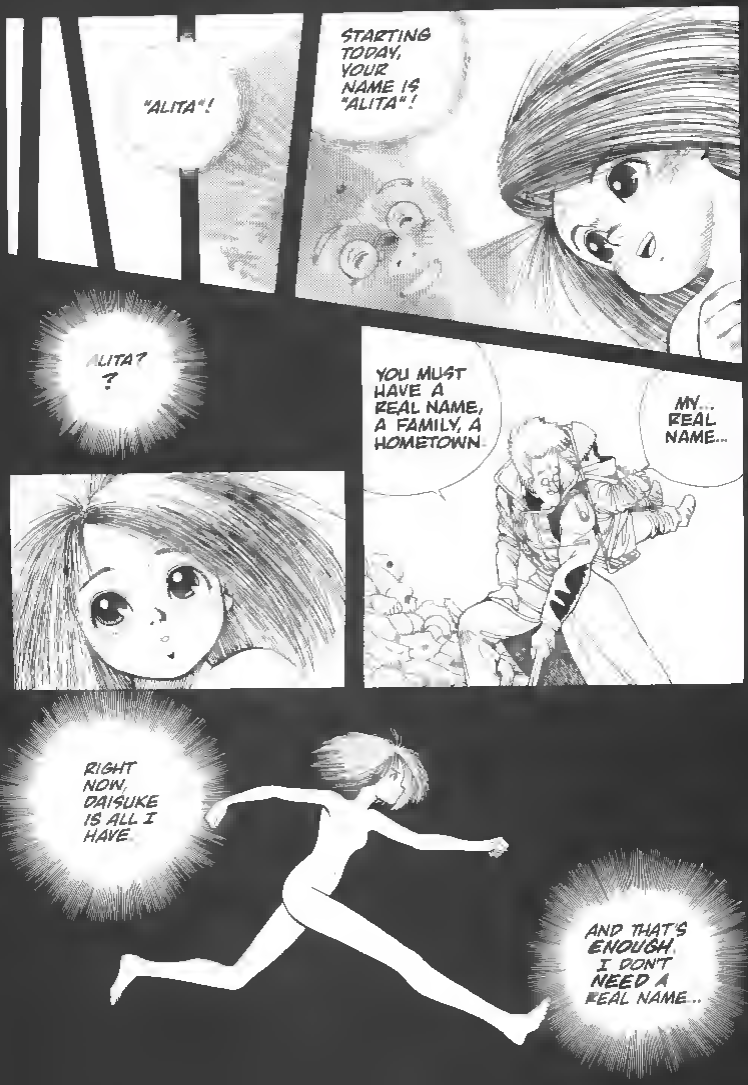




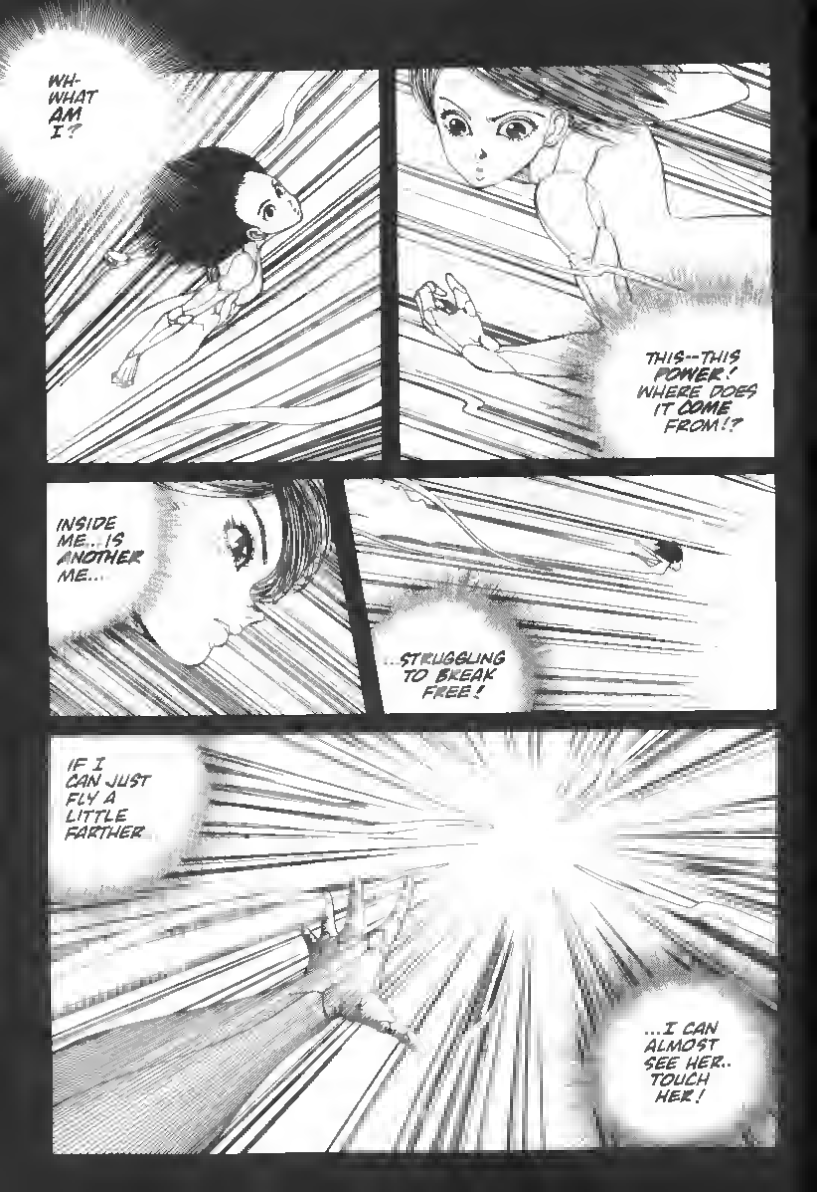




*VARIABLE SKELETAL MUSCLES: BECAUSE THEY ARE COMPOSED OF FINE METAL ELEMENTS, THEY ARE STRONG AND SOFT, AND HAVE THE ABILITY TO CHANGE THEIR SHAPE.


"ALITA"!
STARTING TODAY, YOUR NAME IS "ALITA"!
ALITA? ?
YOU MUST HAVE A REAL NAME, A FAMILY, A HOMETOWN.
MY... REAL NAME...
RIGHT NOW, DAISUKE IS ALL I HAVE.
AND THAT'S ENOUGH. I DON'T NEED A REAL NAME...

NO!
GRO UR!
DAISUKE-- IN TROUBLE!
SHASH
KAFWOOSH!


WH-WHAT AM I?
THIS--THIS POWER! WHERE DOES IT COME FROM!?
INSIDE ME...IS ANOTHER ME...
...STRUGGLING TO BREAK FREE!
IF I CAN JUST FLY A LITTLE FARTHER
...I CAN ALMOST SEE HER.. TOUCH HER!

!
FWSH
MY BODY ?
GWAHAHAHA

OH!
SHUMP
SHE'S AWAKE!
ALITA?
WELL, HOW IS IT, ALITA?
DOES IT FEEL STRANGE?
HUH...
OH...
MY NEW... BODY?

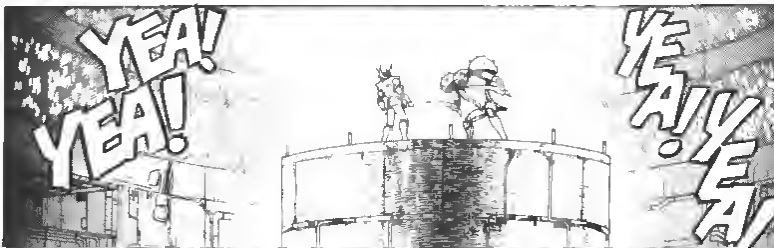
IT MAY NOT LOOK AS GOOD AS THE LAST ONE, BUT IT'S A WARRIOR'S BODY.
.....
CHAK
WHUD
FWAPFWAP
TUMP
HEH!
SUCCESS!

ZZZZZZZ
THEY'RE EXHAUSTED FROM THE LONG SURGERY.
ZZZ
DAISUKE'S STOMACH... THAT WOUND.
THE MONSTER WITH THE HUGE FACE MUST HAVE GOTTEN HIM MA-- KOOKY SOMETHING..
GNAK
WELL, WATCH OUT!

NEXT TIME I SEE YOU, I'LL SPLATTER YOUR BRAINS!

THE FINAL BATTLE

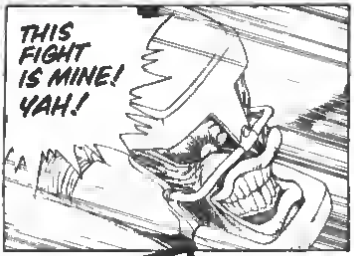
YEA!
YEA!
YEA!


YEA!
YEA!
YEA!
YEA!

BROOM
YAH YAH!
BRRRAAM
ZOG YAH YAH!
TING TANG
BRRMMM
TONG

THE HELPLESS CHAMPION HAS BEEN CORNERED BY ZAARIKI'S INCREDIBLY FIERCE ATTACK--"THE DANCE OF THE SABATO CRAB"!
KASHASH
YEA!
YEA!

SUUAAAAAA
SSSSSS
I DON'T RECALL BEING CORNERED.


THIS FIGHT IS MINE! YAH!

ZUBWAM
I WAS JUST SAVING MYSELF THE EXTRA WALK HOME!

NEXT TIME YOU WANT TO CHALLENGE ME, TRY A STRONGER BODY.
AH!
YAH? YAHHHH..
ZAZISH
THE CHAMPION'S "GRIND CUTTER" EXPLOSIVE DEATH BLOW! HE PULVERIZES THE CHALLENGER'S ENORMOUS BODY IN AN INSTANT!
SCHLOK
POK
TRULY UNRIVALLED! UNDEFEATED IN 281 FIGHTS, THE CHAMPION KINUBA!
YEA! YEA!

YEA!
YEA!
YEA!
WAITING ROOM
WAITING ROOM
SHOSH
KREEK
FWSH
AAAH..
GUH-HEE, HEE!
WHO ARE YOU?

GWA, HEE, HEE! OH, NO ONE WHOSE NAME IS WORTH MENTIONING
I SAW THAT CONTEST JUST NOW AND HAVE BECOME A BIG FAN OF YOURS, YOU SEE.
SHISH
SHISH
TWICH
TWICH
GWA-HEE, GWA-HEE! YES, YOU CERTAINLY ARE POWERFUL!
HMM...I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU MANAGED TO SLIP PAST THE GUARDS TO GET HERE...
...BUT DRINK UP!
GWA, HEE, HEE! WHY, THANK YOU..
THAT WEAPON BUILT INTO YOUR RIGHT HAND... SENSATIONAL, ISN'T IT ?
HEH, HEH... IT'S BECAUSE OF THIS THAT I CAN CLAIM TO BE UNRIVALLED
KANG

THROUGH THE SUPER VIBRATION ACTUATOR* THESE FINGER-TIPS CAN MOVE AT THREE TO FOUR TIMES THE SPEED OF SOUND! I CAN CUT THROUGH CERAMIC ARMOR AS IF IT WERE JELLY!
SCHLOOK
NOT EXACTLY EASY TO COME BY, YOU KNOW...
GWA. HEE, HEE... I LIKE THEM..
HUH...
THAT POWER... THAT BODY...
PLOP
WHUD
THE GREAT MAKAKU WILL TAKE THEM, IF YOU DON'T MIND! GWAHA-HAHA!
SKLORP!!
*ACTUATOR: MOTION DEVICE TO CONVERT CONTROL SIGNALS INTO ACTUAL MOVEMENTS.

HMPH!
SCHLICK
ZAZISH
KLNK
KLONK
HMM!!
BOK

AH!
CHIKATAK
GRRR
BAM BAM
FWIK
SNEETCH!
MY LEFT ARM-- IT WON'T MOVE!
GU. GO.
GLEAGH
TIK TAK
CHIK
GLAGHA
KER TORK
GAHAHA-HAHA-HAHA!

Y-YOU BASTARD.
FWASH
TIK-TAK
YOU CAN'T JUST TAKE OVER MY BODY! I'LL SHRED MYSELF TO PIECES FIRST!
SCHLOK
EAT THIS!
WAITING ROOM
KAKRESH

..NOW NOBODY..
THUMP
WHUMP
...NOBODY CAN STOP ME!
NOBODY! GNAHA-HAHAA!!
I'VE TAKEN THE STRONGEST BODY ON EARTH!
NOW TO RETALIATE!

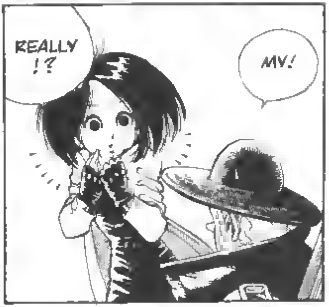
OHHHMMMM
UMMSHHOOHMMM
WHAT IS THAT SOUND?
IT'S THE SIGHING OF THE TUBES THAT CONNECT TIPHARES TO THE FACTORIES HERE ON THE GROUND

OHHHHHHHHHH
IT'S CAUSED BY CHANGES IN TIPHARES'S ALTITUDE--WHICH IN TURN ARE CAUSED BY THE MOON'S GRAVITATIONAL PULL.

WHAT AN AWFUL SOUND.

..LIKE THE MOANS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE...

YOU'RE STARTING TO SEEM MORE GROWN UP, ALITA.


REALLY !?
MY!

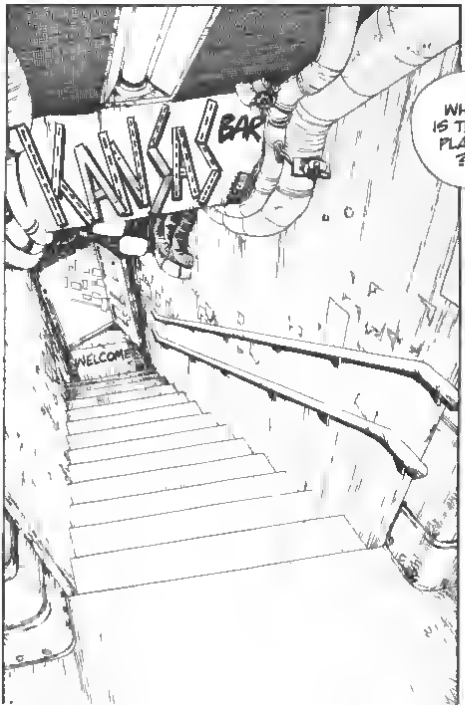
I WONDER IF ATTACHING A "BERSERKER" BODY HAS AFFECTED HER MIND.

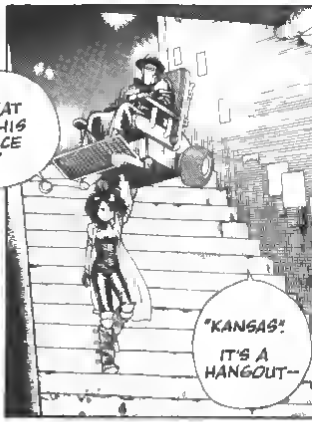
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT, IDO...

...BUT BELIEVE ME.

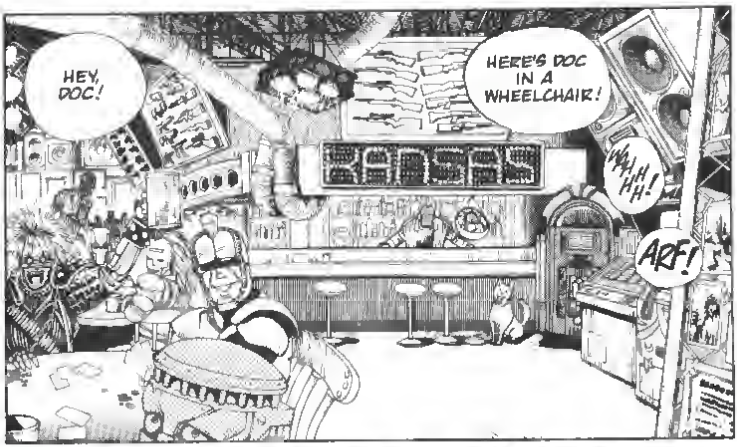
...NO MATTER HOW I MAY SEEM TO CHANGE FROM THIS POINT ON...
...I'LL STILL BE THE ALITA YOU KNOW ALWAYS

I BELIEVE YOU


KANSAS BAR
WELCOME

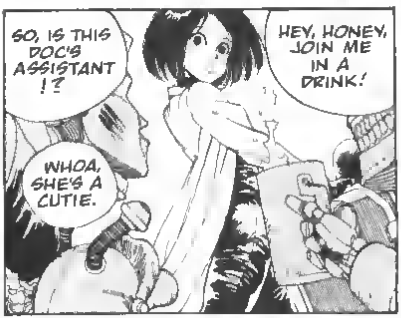

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
"KANSAS"! IT'S A HANGOUT--

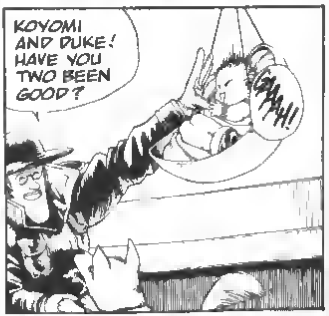
--FOR BOUNTY HUNTERS LIKE ME?

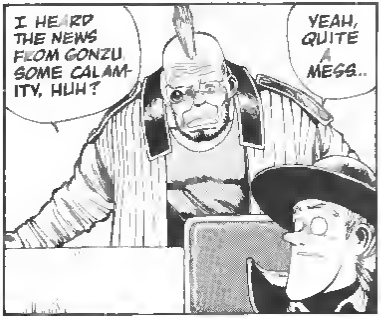

HEY, DOC!
HERE'S DOC IN A WHEELCHAIR!
WHHHH!
ARF!

DOC?
ZAPAN, HOW'S THE ARM?
OH, IT'S GREAT, DOC!
DOC-- PAY YOU BACK NEXT TIME I SEE YOU, OKAY?

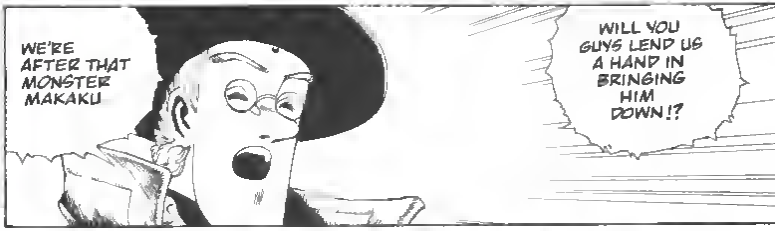
EVERYONE CALLS YOU "DOC," DAISUKE


SO, IS THIS DOC'S ASSISTANT!?
HEY, HONEY, JOIN ME IN A DRINK!
WHOA, SHE'S A CUTIE.

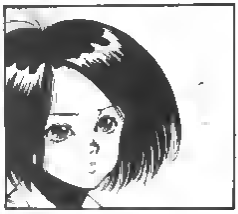

KOYOMI AND DUKE! HAVE YOU TWO BEEN GOOD?
GAHH!!


I HEARD THE NEWS FROM GONZU SOME CALAMITY, HUH?
YEAH, QUITE A MESS..

EVERYONE! LISTEN UP!
WHAT IS IT, DOC?


WE'RE AFTER THAT MONSTER MAKAKU
WILL YOU GUYS LEND US A HAND IN BRINGING HIM DOWN!?

UM
UH
.....



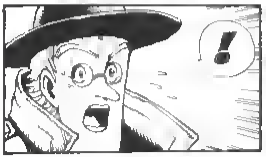
WHAT'S WRONG, GUYS !?

ZAPAN!
HMPH NONE OF MY BUSINESS!
WE BOUNTY HUNTERS ARE LONE WOLVES!
YOU BRING DOWN YOUR OWN PREY BY YOUR OWN SELF!!
ONLY AN IDIOT WOULD GO AFTER THAT SLIMEBALL MAKAKU
HEAVEN HELP US.
THAT'S ONE BOUNTY THAT'S JUST TOO DANGEROUS!
SO FAR, AT LEAST TEN HUNTERS HAVE BEEN KILLED TRYING TO GET HIM!
WE CAN'T JUST PICK AND CHOOSE THE CRIMINALS WE GO AFTER! IT'S NOT RIGHT!
IF A FRIEND WAS ABOUT TO BE KILLED BY MAKAKU RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES, WOULD YOU JUST TURN THE OTHER WAY!?
SHADDUP! NOBODY PREACHES TO ME!
FWD

AVOID THE RISKS AS BEST YOU CAN, BRING DOWN YOUR PREY EFFICIENTLY AND CAREFULLY. AND THEN TAKE HOME YOUR CHIPS. THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A "PRO"!
THIS ISN'T A HOBBY FOR US, DOC! WE AIN'T GOT YOUR BRAINS--BUT WE KNOW HOW TO STAY ALIVE!

THOK
WH ?!

SPLOSH
HEY !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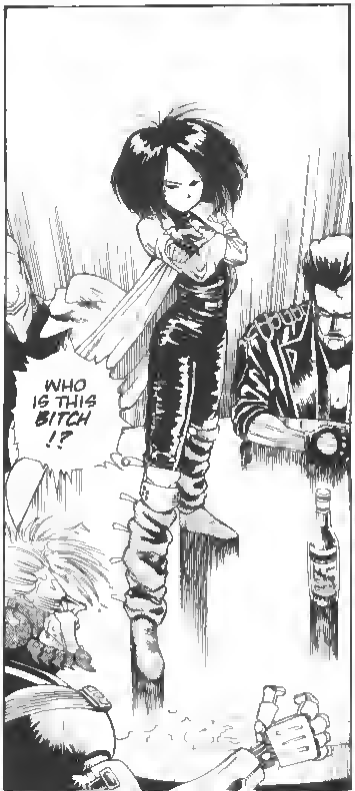
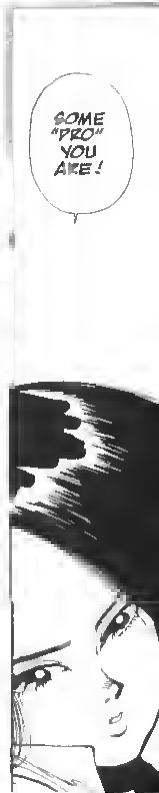

WHO IS THIS BITCH !?


SOME "PRO" YOU AKE!

WHY NOT JUST BE HONEST AND SAY, "I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT MAKAKU BECAUSE HE SCARES THE PISS OUT OF ME!"
THERE ARE ONLY TWO HUNTER-WARRIORS IN THIS ROOM!
DAISUKE AND I WILL JUST HAVE TO TAKE THIS BOUNTY ON OUR OWN!
THE REST OF YOU COWARDS CAN JUST STAY HERE AND ROT!

GRRRR
.....
KRESH
TH-THIS IS BAD!
ALITA! APOLOGIZE TO EVERYONE!
NO WAY!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU ARE A WOMAN-- I CAN'T LET YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS SHIT!
MAYBE I'LL RIP OUT YOUR ARMS AND LEGS AND ROLL YOUR HEAD IN THE STREET TO TEACH YOU SOME MANNERS
CHIK
CHAK
UMP
BIG MAN
...JUST TRY IT

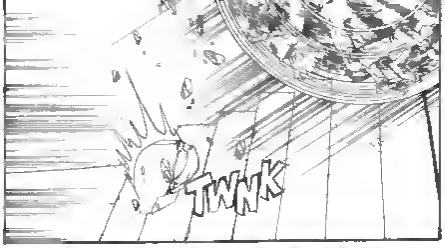
THAT'S IT!
KAKREEK
GRR.
WHUMP
HAH!
FOOMP
FWUD
HO!
KCHING

YO!
SHASH
CHEK
TOK
TOK
TOK
KRESH
KRESH
KRAK
WAH
KAWHAM

YAAH!
WHUD
DAMN! DON'T GO EASY ON HER!!
FWANG
TIMG
TOOSH
FWISH
SHA
TUMP
!
SHAK

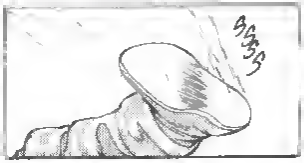
WHY, YOU--!
GHNG
TOOMP
GAH!
SKRK!
OOPS! I-I'M SORRY!
AAAGH!
I-IT'S NOT ME! IT'S NOT ME!
SKRIK
SKRIK
SKRIK
WAH!
KAK-WAM
DAMMIT! WOULD YOU LET GO OF ME!
TEE HEE!

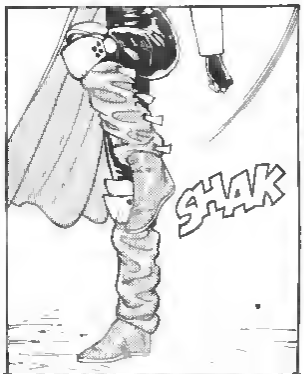
WHUMP
AAAGH!
WHAM
CHOOK
Yee!


TWNK

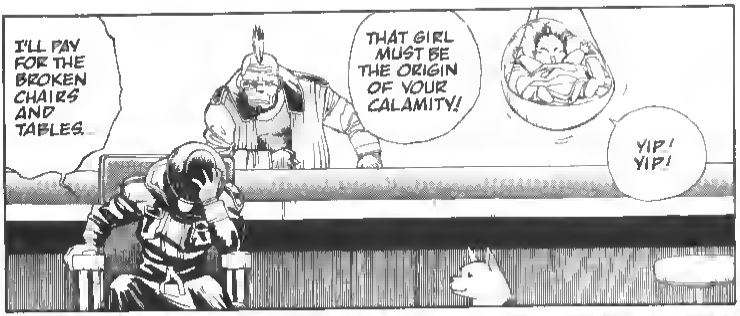
KWSA
SHAK
ACHAK

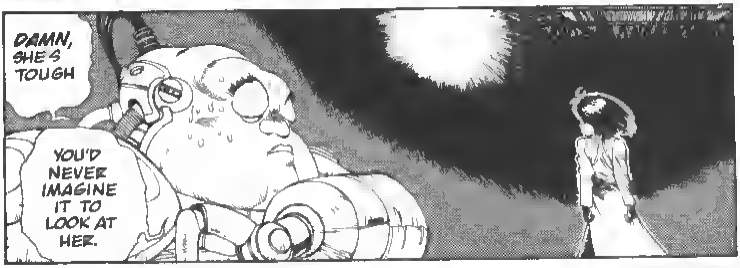
FWOOM


SSSS

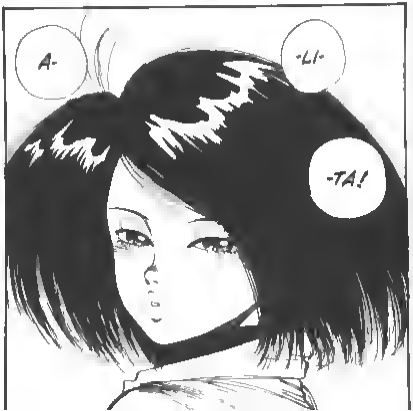

SHAK

NOW-- DON'T THAT MAKE YOU FEEL A LOT BETTER ?
D- DAMN !


I'LL PAY FOR THE BROKEN CHAIRS AND TABLES.
THAT GIRL MUST BE THE ORIGIN OF YOUR CALAMITY!
YIP! YIP!


DAMN, SHE'S TOUGH
YOU'D NEVER IMAGINE IT TO LOOK AT HER.

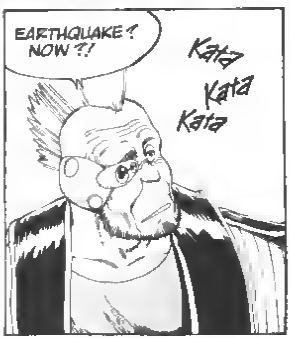
WEIRD TECHNIQUES AND INCREDIBLE POWER THIS GIRL'S NOT JUST ANYBODY!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU!?


A-
-LI-
-TA!

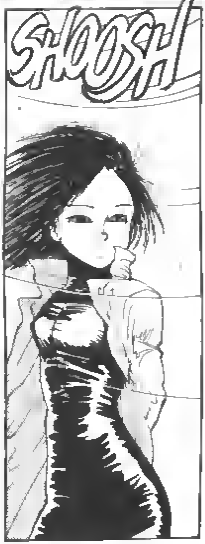
UUH OUCH
KANSAS IN
MY ARM'S GONE!
HEY, YOU GUYS ALL RIGHT?
KRNCH
AAAAGH!
NEXT TIME I SEE THAT GIRL I'M GONNA MAKE HER PAY!
W-WHAT THE HELL!?
FLOOK
GAAA!
AH! AHHH!
KANSAS IN
TOOM
TOOM

Heh?!
I DON'T CARE HOW STRONG YOU ARE! YOU THINK YOU CAN GET ALONG IN THIS TOWN...
...AFTER MAKING ENEMIES OF MOST OF THE BOUNTY HUNTERS!?

Kata
Kata
Kata

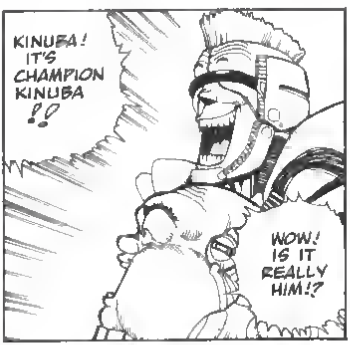

EARTHQUAKE? NOW?!
Kata
Kata
Kata

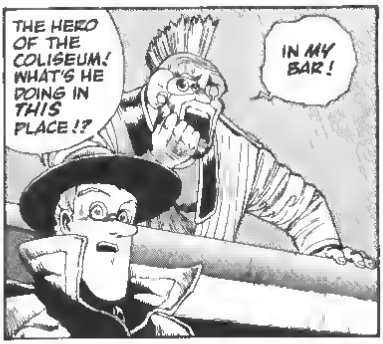
MAX HEAD ROOM 3.0M
WELCOME
Shhhhhhh


SHOOSH!

!
GRRR
MAX HEADROOM 30M
WHAT THE-?!
KABLAM
KREKAKRAK
ENTRANCE
MAX HEADROOM 30M
BREMM
KAWHAM
KRAK
THWAK

GWA HA HA!


KINUBA! IT'S CHAMPION KINUBA !?
WOW! IS IT REALLY HIM!?


THE HERO OF THE COLISEUM! WHAT'S HE DOING IN THIS PLACE!?
IN MY BAR!

I-I'M A BIG FAN OF YOURS !?
CAN I HAVE AN AUTOGRAPH !?

SURE

SCHLOK

Whee!
ZISH
ZISH
ZISH

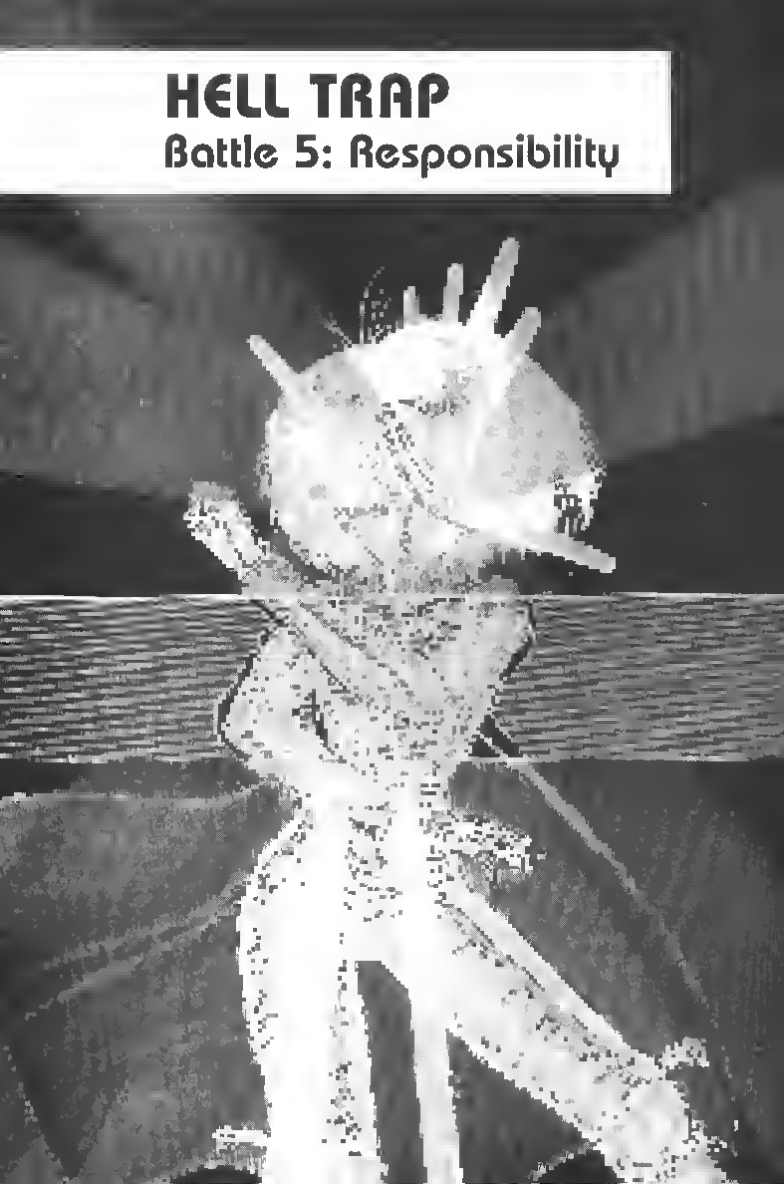
HEE!?
CRAAM
!
ZISH
SPLIK
KREK
SPLORP
KREK
SHUSHT
GWA HAHA HAHA...
SHLUP
ARRRR

I'VE COME TO SEE YOU, BABY!
MAKAKU..
...THIS... THING HAS GOTTEN HOLD OF KINUBA'S POWER!?
Shaash

GRNG
BAR
KANSAS IN
GRNG
SNIPT
SNIPT
KANS
KREK
KREKA
TAK TAK
WAHHH!
WAAA!
ROWF!
ROWF!
WELC
ME

KRA KRESH
GRR ROWF ROWF
WAHAHA
WAGH!
AIEEE!
UH-OH!
GWA-HAHA!
AH, PRETTY THING.
..YOU'VE GOTTEN HOLD OF A NEW BODY, TOO, EH!?
SCHLORP
PA TING
AH!
SOME KIND OF SENSOR-- HE'S PROBING MY BODY..!
PA TING
PA TING

HELL TRAP
Battle 5: Responsibility



SLURRRP
I WANT YOU...
...MY DESIRE, PRETTY THING...
...AND WHAT I WANT, I GET
I'LL NEVER FORGET THE AGONY OF HAVING THIS EYE CRUSHED-- BUT I WON'T KILL YOU...
...IS TO RIP YOUR LIMBS OFF WHILE YOU STILL HAVE LIFE...TO TURN YOU, CRYING AND SCREAMING, INTO A LIVING PENDANT WITH WHICH TO ADORN MY CHEST!
THERE COULD BE NO GREATER HAPPINESS THAN TO HEAR YOUR PLEADING VOICE EVERY MOMENT, EVERY DAY.
WELL? DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S A WONDERFUL IDEA!?

...ohhh...
...SO WICKED... SO VICIOUS... SO SAD...
IF PAIN IS ALL THAT CAN MAKE YOU FEEL "HAPPINESS"-- I GUESS WE'RE NOT BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL... HOW PITIFUL...
GWAHA HAH! TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT--
--I'M JUST A LITTLE OL' MAGGOT-WORM! GWAHA!
ZLISH
GWA HA HA!
EEE!
OH, NO!
FLEK FLEK FLEK
WAAAAAH! WAH!
HEE, HEE...

MY LIFE BEGAN WITH TERROR AND PAIN, LITTLE ONE...
!
.....
...BUT "TERROR" AND "PAIN" CAN BE OVERCOME-- IF YOU ONLY KNOW THE CORRECT PRINCIPLE!
THESE TWO SENSATIONS ARE LIKE WATER-- ALWAYS FLOWING FROM A HIGHER PLACE TO A LOWER PLACE
SNORT
IF I CONTINUOUSLY SUBJECT OTHERS TO TERROR AND PAIN, THEN I WILL BE PROTECTED FROM THAT SUFFERING
BUT SUCH EXQUISITE TORTURE REQUIRES POWER!
AND THAT POWER--TO THRUST OTHERS INTO TERROR AND PAIN-- IS MY GOAL!

POWER LIKE THIS
SCH LICK
YOU SEE.?
THE GRIND CUTTER !
RUN, ALITA !
SSSHHHSSH
FWISH
ZZZZSSSSH
TINAK

ON YOUR KNEES, GIRL!
I MAY BE A MAGGOT-WORM-- BUT I'M THE KING OF THE MAGGOT-WORMS! GWAHA!
YOU THINK THIS IS A THREAT?!
KAFWACK
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE ALITA, YOU SNAKE-NECK!
HEH, HEH-- YOU DON'T COMPREHEND MY POWER, DO YOU?

SCHLICK
FWISH
ZISH
TUP
SHASSH
SHISSH
FWASHH
300 MILES PER HOUR.. 400 MILES PER HOUR...
ZISH
ZISH
ZISH
GWAHAHA! HOW FAST DO YOU WANT ME TO GO?

FWUD WUD WUD
I'M TOO SMALL-- THE ONLY WAY I CAN POSSIBLY BRING DOWN MAKAKU 19 TO FLY RIGHT INTO HIS FACE AND DELIVER A KILLING BLOW!
FWISH
LET'S...
FWASH
SKREEE
KRAK
TOK
...GO!

THOOM
Ting
KREKAKRESH
WHAT!? RUNNING ALONG THE GRIND CUTTER!?
FWASH
PRRRMMMM
GET READY, MAKAKU!
GWAHA-HAHA! YOU DO MAKE THIS FUN!

BUT THERE'S MORE!
SCHLICK
SCHLICK
?!
AAGH!
WHAMMA
POOP
POOP
SLAMMASH
NO!
ALITA!

Ungh
TOKA
POK
U...
GWAHAHAHA IT'S SO CUTE HOW YOU GET ALL ANGRY AND UPSET. CAN'T YOU TAKE A LITTLE TEASING?
SCHLOOK
IF I WERE A CRUEL MAN, YOU'D HAVE BEEN IN PIECES LONG AGO, MISS ALITA!
SLOORP
YOU SEE, THERE ARE GRIND CUTTERS BUILT INTO ALL FIVE FINGERS OF MY LEFT HAND YUMMY, EH?

EVEN WITH ALITA'S "PANZER KUNST" FIGHTING TECHNIQUE AND "BERSERKER" BODY...
SHE'S NO MATCH FOR MAKAKU'S NEW FORM!
AND IN THIS DAMN WHEELCHAIR, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO!
BAM
BAM
BAM
DAMN!
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I DON'T GET..
. MAKAKU'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS ALITA ON THE SURFACE, HE SEEMS TO BE PICKING ON SOMEONE WHO'S WEAK, BUT THAT'S NOT IT! IT COULDN'T BE.
HMM
HFF
HMM
HORRIBLE! IT'S TOO HORRIBLE A THOUGHT, BUT..
C-COULD IT BE THAT MAKAKU IS..
IS HE IN LOVE WITH ALITA!?
WE'LL ALL BE KILLED!
IS IT TRUE THAT WITH YOUR BRAIN EATEN, YOU CAN'T BE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE, EVEN AS A CYBORG!?
BE QUIET!
YUCK! I DON'T WANT TO HAVE MY BRAINS EATEN!
ARF

WAHHH WAHHH
TONK
SCHLICK
K-KOYOMI!
WAAHH!
GWA HAHA HA!
!
P-PLEASE! THE BABY! GIVE KOYOMI BACK!

NOW YOU SEE ME...
WAHHH
.. NOW YOU DON'T.
....
CHAK THWUK
PEEK-A-BOO!
NYAH!
WAAAA
HMPH! THIS BRAT'S NO FUN.
LOOKS TASTY, THOUGH..
STOP!
THAT BABY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS, DOES SHE!? LET GO OF HER!
IS THIS YOUR KID?
WAAH
OF COURSE NOT!

THOOM
CRNK
WELL, ALITA, IT'S TIME TO PUT MY FOOT DOWN!
CUTTING YOU TO RIBBONS RIGHT HERE IS EASY ENOUGH, BUT THAT WOULDN'T BE ANY FUN...
KABOOM
...SO WE'LL HAVE A GAME!
OH, HELL! THE FLOOR?
KEKA
TEK
THIS BAR WAS BUILT ON TOP OF THE SEWER SYSTEM..
..AND MY GRIND CUTTERS MADE US THIS MANHOLE-MAKAKU-SIZE
THWUK

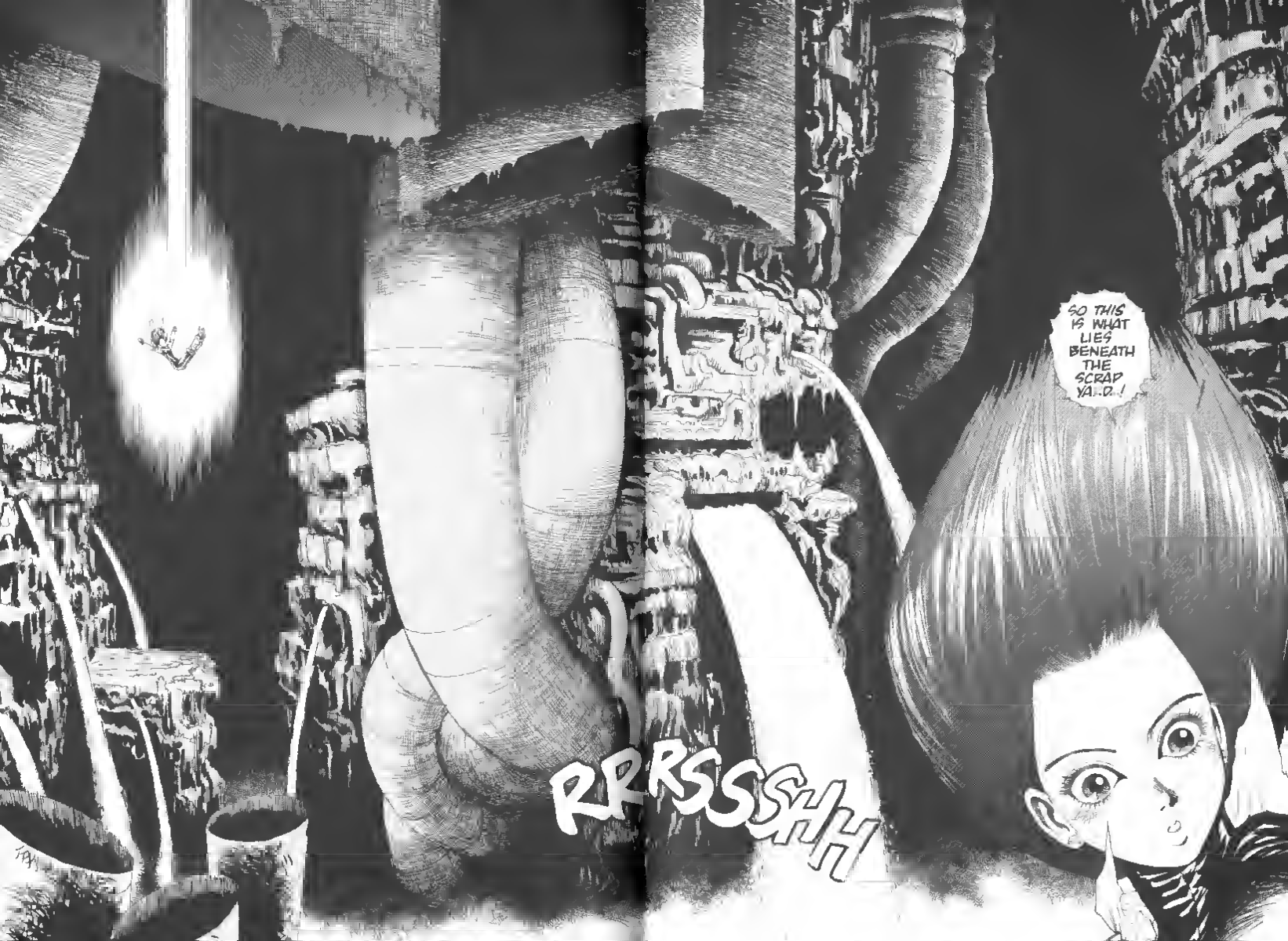
IF YOU WANT THE BRAT BACK, YOU'LL HAVE TO GET HER YOURSELF
I'LL BE WAITING! GWAHA HAHA HA!
FWOOP
ARF ARF ARF
DUKE! COME BACK!
OHHH-- IT'S NO GOOD THAT CHILD WON'T COME BACK

AH!
WE MADE IT! WE'RE ALIVE!
TH-THAT'S WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE. MAKAKU'S GONE...!
ALL RIGHT!
WHEE-HEE! WHAT LUCK WE HAVE!
AHH! A SECOND AGO I FELT MORE DEAD THAN ALIVE!
TOO BAD ABOUT THOSE GUYS WHO GOT KILLED--BUT I GUESS THEY JUST WEREN'T LUCKY, HUH?
YOU SAID IT! I NEVER WANT TO MEET UP WITH THAT MONSTER AGAIN!
HA HA HA HA

YOU MUSTN'T GO, ALITA!
DON'T LET HIM LURE YOU IN! IT'S A TRAP!
I KNOW.
....BUT I SAID WE HAD TO TAKE MAKAKU ON--AND I MEANT IT SOMEONE HAS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY
EH?

AND BESIDES, KOYOMI'S SUCH A CUTE BABY. YOU'D RESCUE HER...
..RIGHT?
.....
WE'LL BE BACK, DAISUKE— YOU'LL SEE.
PROMISE?

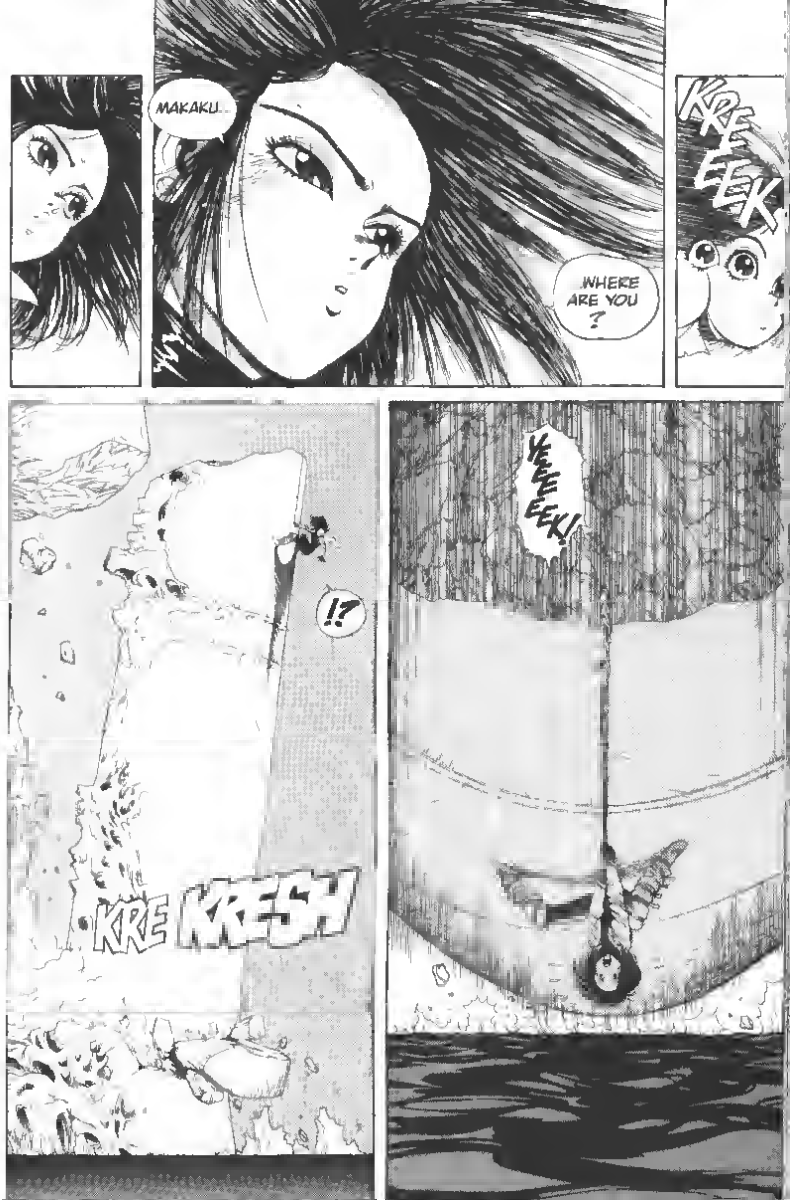
ALITAAAA!
SHASH
WHSSH


SO THIS IS WHAT LIES BENEATH THE SCRAP YA..D..!
RRRSSSHH

ungh!
SMASH

HMPH!
THWUM
FAGH
SHASH
THAT CONCUSSION I GOT EARLIER... STILL DIZZY...!
HAH!
CRUNK
TONK

Ka-
CLICK
SKAK
PLOSH
PLOSH
PASH
SKREEEE


MAKAKU...
WHERE ARE YOU ?
KREEEK
!?
KRE KRESH
YEEEEEEK!

KA-SPLOOSH
KA-SPLOOSH
KA-SPLOOSH

ALITA...
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE GIVEN HER THAT BERSERKER BODY!
NOW ALL I CAN DO IS SIT HERE WITH A DUMB LOOK ON MY FACE, WAITING FOR HER TO COME BACK SAFELY!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT. SHE HAD A CHANCE TO ESCAPE ALIVE...
...AND THEN SHE JUST THREW IT AWAY!
OUCH!
THAT'S NOT A STRANGER YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IF YOU GUYS HAD FOUGHT MAKAKU!
POW!
DOC. ALITA SAID SHE WOULD SAVE MY KOYOMI SHE SAID IT WAS A PROMISE.
SUCH BRAVERY-- TO GO DOWN INTO THAT HOLE, FACE THAT BEAST!
BUT DOC-- DOES THAT CHILD HAVE A CHANCE!?

(ARTIST'S FOOTNOTE) *CEREBRAL CORTEX: THE REGION OF THE BRAIN THAT CONTROLS LARGE SCALE MOVEMENTS OF THE MUSCLES, THIS "CROCODILE BRAIN" MANAGES THE PRIMITIVE/REPTILIAN INSTINCTIVE ACTIONS.

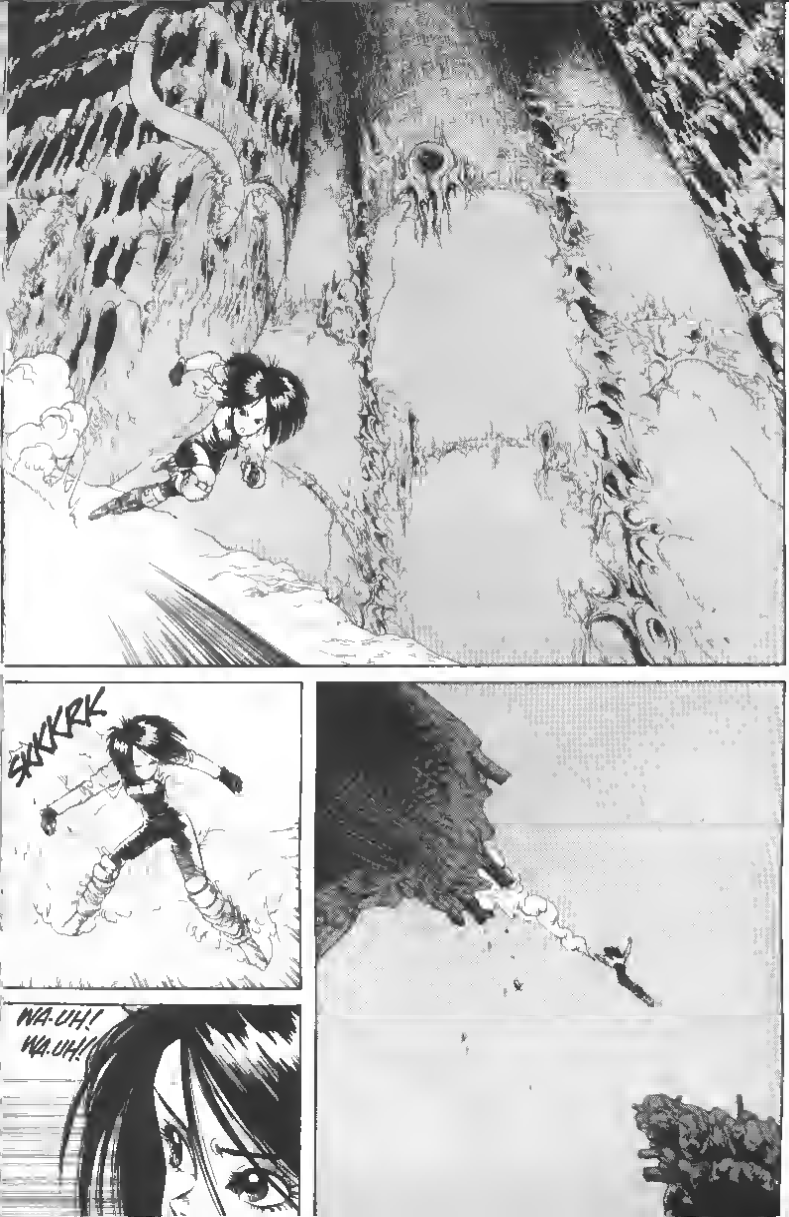
DRIP
DRIP
SMACK
FA-TISH!
POOF
THE COMMAND THAT ACTIVATES SURVIVAL MODE IS PROBABLY AN INTENSE WILL TO LIVE-- A DEEP DESIRE TO HANG ON TO LIFE AT ALL COSTS

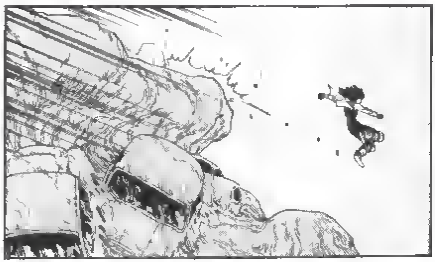
SHAAA
SSSSSS
BLORP
I GAVE MY WORD I'D DELIVER THE BABY TO SAFETY...
BLUB
BLUB

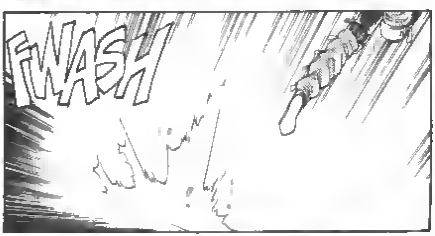
.. THAT I WOULD COME BACK ALIVE ..
KAPLOOSH
?!
Tok
tloo tloo
uff
uff
hff
IDO I'M AFRAID..
BUT THESE FEELINGS ARE TOO REAL TO BE IGNORED..
SOMETHING DEEP WITHIN ME IS BEING TOUCHED AGAIN...
..AND RESPONDING

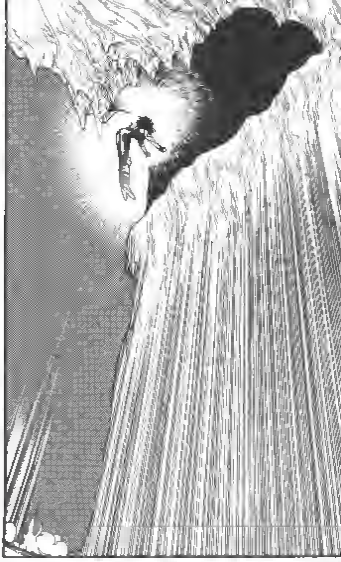
EVEN IN SOMEONE LIKE ME, THERE'S A FRAGILE HEART DOWN DEEP..

WAAAAH
WAAAH
KOYOMI...
?
WA-
WA-
WAAAAA
FOOSH


SKKRK
NA-UH!
NA-UH!




FWASH



SPISHPISHPISH

PLOSH
SHAAA

AH!

GAAH!
OOHAHH!
SHAAA
WAAAUH
WAAAUH
THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
I DON'T SEE MAKAKU...
SHAAA
..BUT I CAN FEEL HIS PRESENCE.. SENSE HIS ENERGY HERE!
hff
uff
AN EVIL SOMETHING VERY CLOSE.. IT'S VERY CLOSE!
DANGER! THREATENING TO ENGULF ME! GOT TO GET AWAY!

ZISH
TONG
Tang
FWSHT

GWAHA HAHA HAHA!
KRESH

WELCOME TO MY OLD HOME...

MAKAKU!

I WENT EASY ON YOU, GIRL.
NEVERTHELESS, I'M IMPRESSED THAT YOU CAN MOVE YOUR BODY AT THE SAME SUPERSONIC SPEED AS MY GRIND-CUTTERS

"OLD HOME". WHAT'S THAT MEAN!?
GWAHA! TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THE SCENE AROUND YOU!
THIS IS WHERE I WAS BORN AND RAISED!
BLP BLORP
DRUP DRUP
NICE PLACE.
THESE ARE RUINS--HAVE YOU NOTICED? A MEGALOPOLIS FROM ANCIENT TIMES, BURIED BENEATH THE GROUND.
THE TRASH FROM THE MID-AIR CITY TIPHARES FALLS TO THE SCRAP YARD AND THE SEWAGE OF THE SCRAP YARD THEN FLOWS DOWN HERE.
I SURVIVED BY EATING ALL THE PUTREFIED WASTE FROM YOU SURFACE-DWELLERS!

KRK
KRK
KRK
!
WAAHH
WAAH
!?
WAH
THE CHILD HAS SERVED ITS PURPOSE.

SHISH
KAKRASH
MY MOTHER GAVE BIRTH TO ME IN THE TOILET AND FLUSHED ME INTO THIS STINKING PIT!
...BUT YOU, ALITA...
...YOU'RE RISKING YOUR OWN LIFE TO SAVE SOMEONE ELSE'S CHILD!
I WON'T LET YOU LIVE!
...!

YOU CAN'T MOVE AT SUPERSONIC SPEEDS WHILE YOU'RE CARRYING THAT BRAT--
GWAHAHA!
--HER PRECIOUS LITTLE BODY CAN'T WITHSTAND SUCH INTENSE SPEED, CAN IT?! HEH, HEH . THIS TIME I'LL CUT YOU TO RIBBONS!
NO!
HUWAHH
HUWAHH
uff
hff
uff
GWA HAHA!
TAKE THIS!
KANG

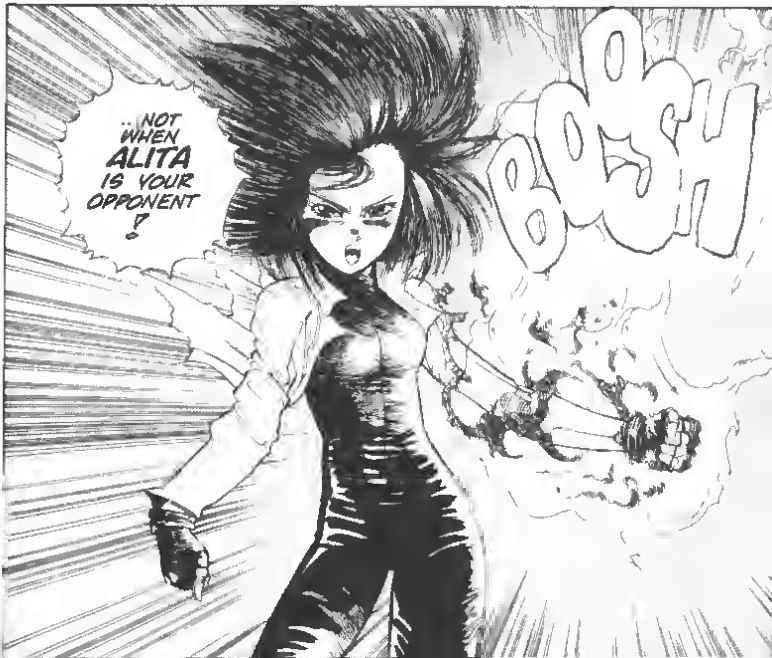
GRRRRR
ROUF
ROUF
ROUF
ROUF!!
WHA
?!
GRRR
ROW!
GWAA! WHAT IS THIS !?!
DUKE FANG!

GRRRF
GKLRF
FWAM
YOU'RE ALIVE, TOO!?
PLOOSH
GYAAAA!
SKLOOSH
ARF!
GOOD JOB!

AAGH! IT HURTS!
B-BRAINS?! I NEED BRAINS!
FWUD
TOOM
AHHH!
SHLOP!
KRNCH KRNCH
CHOMP
CHOMP
WATCH AFTER BABY KOYOMI, FUKE FANG!
URF WERFF
YOU THINK I'LL LET YOU GET AWAY, YOU MANGY CUR!?
KATOONG
UHHH... UNGH!
GO ON-- HURRY

FOOM
SLICH
BOOSH
TOKKA TOKKA
NOOO!
ZAKUM
ZUMM
.....
ZAP

SLSH
SLSH
DON'T TOUCH THE BABY OR THE DOG.


..NOT WHEN ALITA IS YOUR OPPONENT !
BOSH

SSST
TST
POOSH
FOOSH
SSSSsss
SST TST
FWASH

CONQUERING ANGEL
Battle 6: Struggle

GURYAAA!!
WH-WHAT WAS THAT!?
MY "POWER ARM"-- HOW COULD ITS FORTY MILLIMETER-THICK ARMORED SKIN EXPLODE SO EASILY !?

AT THAT MOMENT I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND IT MYSELF.
THOSE MOVES-- I JUST NATURALLY RESPONDED THAT WAY.
...LIKE STREAKING THE TAN UNDER MY EYES--
--IT WASN'T SOMETHING I DID CONSCIOUSLY... IT--IT WAS JUST WHAT I HAD TO DO !
HER NEW FUNCTIONS-- CODIFY THEM, BOARHEAD!!
SHIT!
GRUM
SHIT!
SSHH

*PLASMA JET- A HIGH-SPEED JET OF HIGH-TEMPERATURE IONIZED GAS. A TECHNOLOGY USED IN HEAT-CUTTING AND CASTING.

**M.H.D PROPULSION- A TYPE OF PROPULSION WHICH APPLIES MAGNETOHYDRODYNAMICS TO ELECTRICITY-CONDUCTING PLASMA.

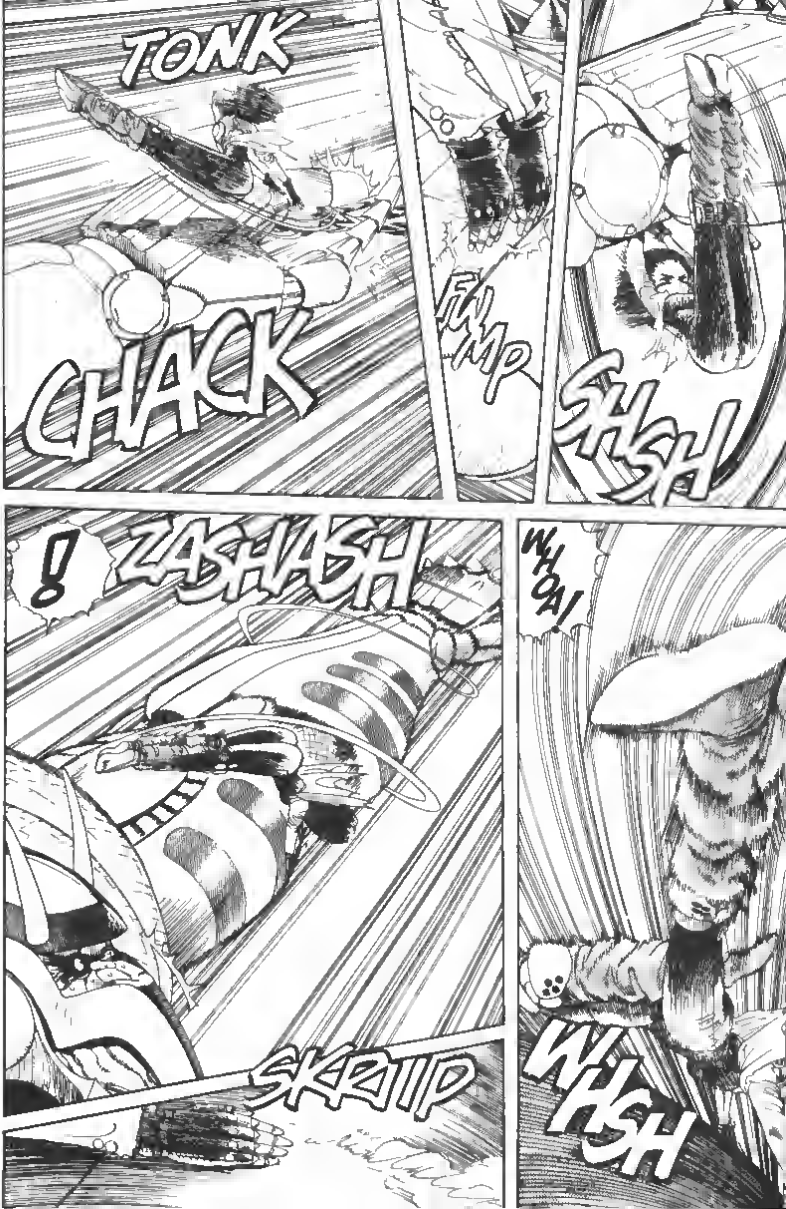
...THE FEELING OF FEAR THAT HAD WEIGHED SO HEAVILY ON MY HEART ONLY MOMENTS AGO-- THAT SENSE WAS LOST!
GRRROWR
ALL I KNEW WAS THE NEED TO BRING DOWN THE MONSTER BEFORE MY EYES.. A BURNING, SEETHING DRIVE-- TO FIGHT!

DON'T LET HER CLOSE THE GAP!
FINISH HER OFF INSTANTLY WITH THE G-CUTTERS WHILE SHE'S STILL AT LONG RANGE!
MAXIMUM POWER! FIVE-FINGER SIMULTANEOUS ATTACK!
CH1K
WHOOM
FASH

SHAAA
ZSH!
TARGET SPEED· MACH 0.94. TRAJECTORY PINPOINTED PRECISELY!
THE ENEMY'S SPEED IS 75% SLOWER THAN THE G-CUTTERS. HER DESTRUCTION IS CERTAIN!
!?
TAKA TAKA TAKA

CHAKATAKA
WH-WHAT? THE RECOIL FROM FIRING THE G-CUTTERS-- I'VE LOST MY FOOTING!
GAAH!
WHUD
SHOOSH
KABLAM

THE FASTER YOU FIRE, THE STRONGER THE RECOIL--
--YOU CAN'T HANDLE THAT WITHOUT BALANCE!
ENEMY APPROACHING!
FOOL! DIDN'T YOU REALIZE THAT AFTER LOSING AN ARM YOUR BODY WEIGHT WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED UNEVENLY?!
YAAAH!
WHY, YOU LITTLE--!!


TONK
CHACK
FWMP
SHSH
!
ZASHASH
SKRTTP
WHOA!
WHSH

GWAHA-HAHA!
KAKREK
KRASH
TONK
GWAHA-HAHA!
KAPLOOSH

KAKEK
TEK
?!
ZISH
SHAA
A

TUMP
TUMP
RRRR!
TAA
!
SHE'S GOT THE TOP OF YOUR HEAD
GAME OVER, MASTER.
GU... GU...

Tch
Tfch
FORGET IT. YOU'VE LOST!
AND TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T DO ANY MORE BAD THINGS..
SHAAAAA
I'LL DISINFECT THAT BRAIN OF YOURS--BY BURNING IT CLEAN AWAY!
GUGU... GUFU...
GWAHA-HAA! THAT'S MY ANGEL ALL RIGHT
BUT DO YOU THINK I CAME TO THESE SEWERS JUST FOR THE HELL OF IT!?

WHAT !?
DID YOU FORGET?-- I SAID I GREW UP HERE...
...I KNOW THE LAY OF THIS UNDERGROUND WORLD AND THE MOVEMENT OF ITS WATERS LIKE THE BACK OF MY HAND!
WHAT GOOD WILL THAT DO YOU AT THIS P--
DRP
?
fsh
DRP
PLP
RAIN-- UNDERGROUND !?
PIP PLP
GWAHA-HAA-- DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS MEANS ?!
PLP
.....
RMB
RMB
SHAA

RMB RMB SHWOOSH
AHH!
GWAHAHA!
EVERY DAY AT THE SAME TIME, THE SEWAGE FROM THE SURFACE TANKS OF THE SCRAP YARD IS DUMPED... RIGHT HERE!
SHOOOOOOOSH
WHOOOOOSH

AAAH!
GWAHA-BABU BABUA!
SHAAAA
SHSSSSS
HOOO!
GAAH HA

WHSHHH
SHAHHH
WH-WHAT AN INCREDIBLE CURRENT! I CAN'T CONTROL MY MOVEMENTS!
GUGGG!
RRRR
RR

SUDDENLY THE TABLES HAVE TURNED, EH, ALITA!?
YOU CAN'T MAKE PLASMA UNDERWATER, CAN YOU!?
GABABA
WHAT'S MORE, WITH THE CURRENT AT MY BACK I CAN SWING MY G-CUTTERS WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT THE RECOIL!
RADRADRR
SSSSSHT
GUUU...
.....

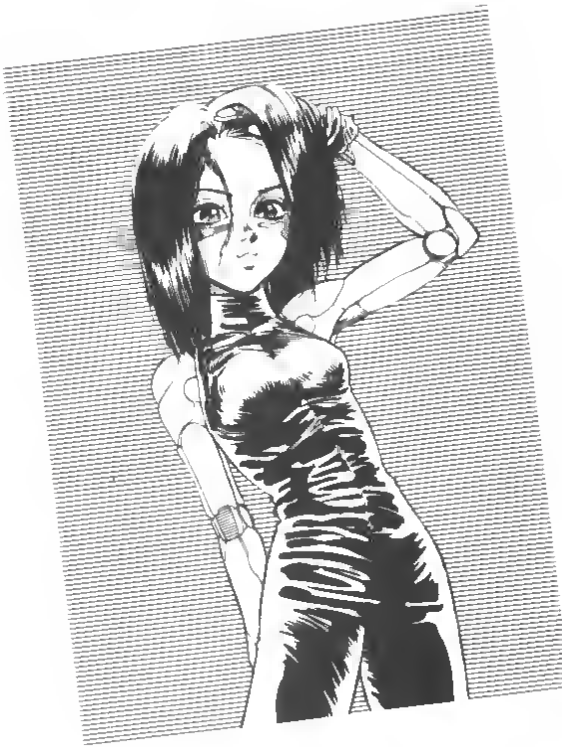
BUT BEFORE THAT...
SSSS
"GAME OVER," YOU SAY?
SKRCK
OINK!
SKLICH
YOU WORTHLESS COMPUTER!
BOOSH
YOU'RE NEXT, MY DARLING ALITA!

AND FIRST I'M GOING TO TAKE THAT NASTY LEFT ARM OF YOURS!
BUT WAIT...
...MAYBE YOUR LEGS... MAYBE I SHOULD CUT YOUR LEGS OFF FIRST.
THEN... I CAN TAKE YOUR ARMS OFF SLOWLY
...CUTTING AS CLEANLY AS I CAN...
...LEAVING JUST THE HEART OF YOU.
EVERY DAY, YOU CAN SOOTHE ME WITH YOUR CRIES OF DESPAIR! GUBYA-BAAHA!
NOW, ALITA!
SKOOSH

KAKREK
WHA--!?
KABOOGH
GUBEHHH!
GAAAA
SHHAAAAA

WHSSHH
AAAH
SHSHH
SPLOOSH
GUGEH!
PLSH

MY ARM! BLOWN TO BITS? BUT HOW?!
YOU IDIOT! I DID IT
TMP
I CARVED AN INCISION INTO THE ACTUATORS OF YOUR ARM...
...SO THAT THE NEXT TIME YOU SENT POWER THROUGH IT, IN ORDER TO FIRE YOUR G-CUTTERS, YOUR ARM WOULD EXPLODE.
WITH THESE FINGERS-- SEE!?
SCSH



THE TEARS OF
AN ANGEL
Battle 7: Compassion

WHUSHHH
YOU'VE HAD YOUR FLING, MAKAKU, EATING OTHER PEOPLE'S BRAINS AND TAKING OVER OTHER PEOPLE'S BODIES--
--I WON'T LET YOU GO BACK TO THE SURFACE AGAIN!
I'LL BURY YOU RIGHT HERE!
YHAA!
NO ONE PASSES JUDGMENT ON MAKAKU THE GREAT!
GWAA
EVERYONE LIVES BY EATING OTHER LIVES! PEOPLE PLUNDER FROM THE WEAK FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT EVERYDAY!
CHK CHK CHK
KAATINK

HA!
ZZZ
ZZ
NG
GWA HA HA!
EVEN YOU, ALITA--THE REWARD HAS BROUGHT YOU TO ME, HASN'T IT?!

SHAAH
YOU'RE SO WRONG!
NO!

WHUDD
TETAKTAK
THUK
CHOK
GU NUNU.
UMFF
SWAAK

GWA!
WHOOD
.....
I HAVE NO MEMORY OF MY EARLIER LIFE..SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF PERSON I WAS REALLY LIKE.
LIFE ITSELF REMAINS UNDEFINED TO ME .
WHETHER IT'S UGLY..OR BEAUTIFUL..
..A SIN OR A GREAT GIFT TO CHERISH--I DON'T KNOW
BUT I'LL FIND OUT!
I NEED A SENSE OF PURPOSE--BEING A BOUNTY HUNTER LETS ME SEARCH FOR MYSELF THROUGH BATTLE!
THE MONEY YOU SPEAK OF IS MEANINGLESS TO ME!

I WALK IN FAITH!
HSSSS
THE FAITH THAT WE CHOOSE WHO WE WANT TO BE...
AND GROW INTO THAT IDENTITY, UGLY OR BEAUTIFUL!
SLKT

I WON'T BE SUBJECT TO THIS!
PWAAAK
ZZZNNGG
KBOOSH
SO MUCH FOR THE "KING OF THE MAGGOT-WORMS"...!
SNISH

TAK TAK TAK
AH, THE THINGS YOU DO TO FIND YOURSELF...
!
I LIKE THAT IN YOU...
...PITY I'LL NEVER HAVE THAT CHOICE.
BORING, MAKAKU...
...THAT HOARSE VOICE OF YOURS, FULL OF TWISTED SELF-PITY--
--I'VE HEARD ENOUGH! SHOW YOURSELF, AND I'LL RIP THAT LONG TONGUE OF YOURS OUT FOR YOU!
KA KRAK

* HYDRIDE ALLOY: AN ALLOY THAT ABSORBS AND STORES HYDROGEN GAS. WHEN FORCED TO EXPEL THAT HYDROGEN, THE ALLOY ALSO RELEASES HEAT

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! I HAVEN'T GOT ANY PLASMA TO WASTE ON A MAGGOT LIKE YOU!
SHUK
ELECTROMAGNETIC POWER IS MORE THAN ENOUGH TO RIP YOU APART!
SHRAAAA
BOOSH
RRRIP
EAT TH--
!!
YAAA YAAA

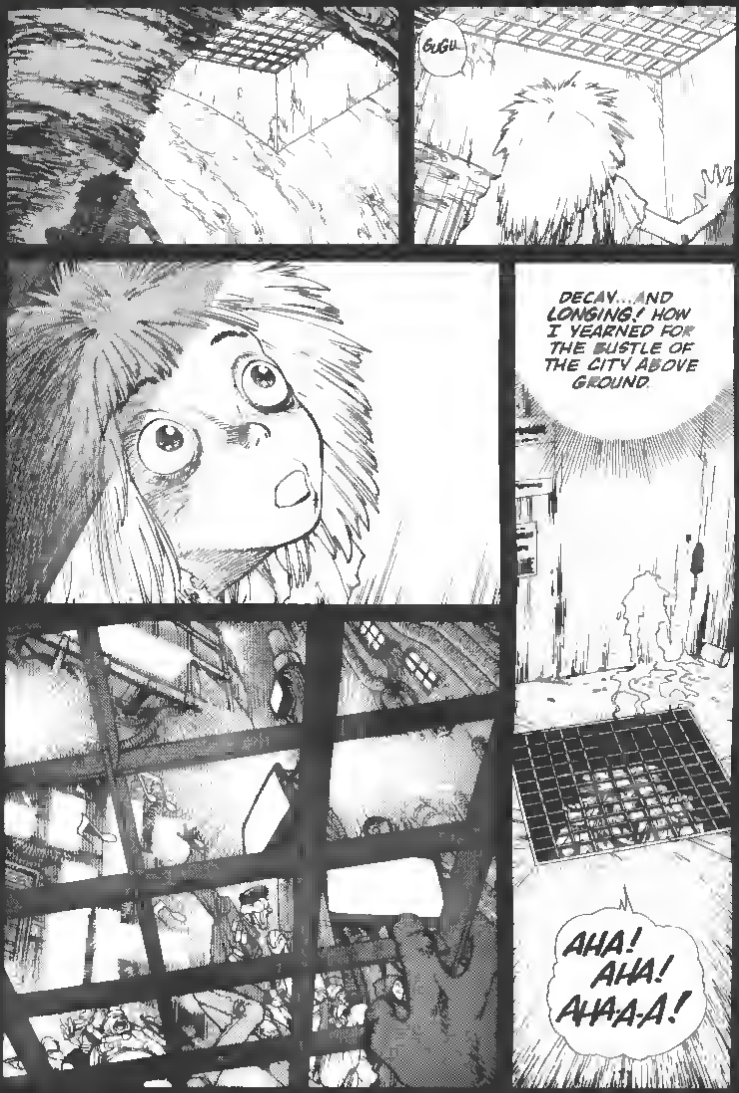
THE EXPLOSION...! HE'S ALREADY MORTALLY WOUNDED..
YOU SEE... I'M ALREADY TOO FAR GONE...
BUT... I'M CONTENT, ALITA...
pik pok
CONTENT TO COMMIT DOUBLE SUICIDE WITH YOU!
LET'S BLOW OURSELVES TO HELL-- TOGETHER!
CHK CHK

KABLAM
WAH! THE HEAT!
FWOOSH
THERE'S FIRE COMING OUT OF THE DRAINS!
WHAT THE F--!?
IT'S OVER IN THE DIRECTION OF THE EASTERN SCRAP DUMP
DOC, THAT'S...
ALITA!
ARF!

KABOOSH
KABAAM
RAAAAAA

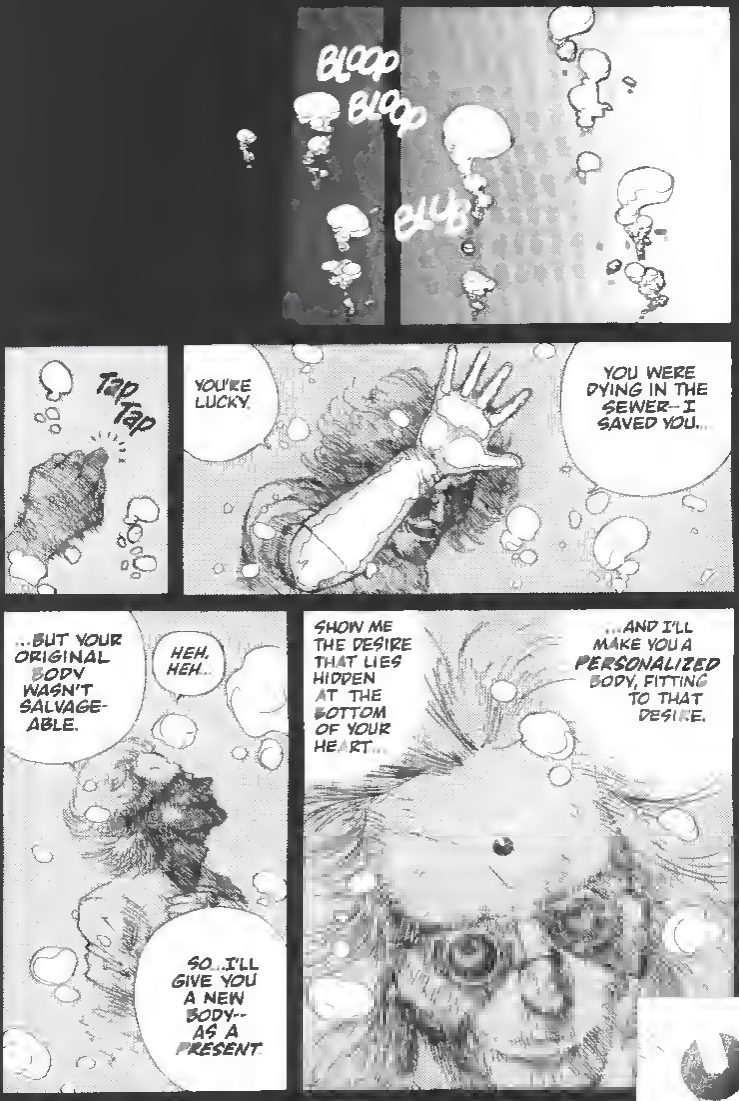
WHERE AM I, ALITA..?
GGG.. HOW STRANGE. I FEEL SO PEACEFUL...
THE BLAZE FROM THE EXPLOSION IS A KIND OF PLASMA, SO I'M ABLE TO HOLD IT BACK WITH AN ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD
NOW WE CAN TALK...I NEED TO KNOW SO MUCH...
BOTH OUR BODIES WERE MADE BY SOMEONE..
BUT WHY WERE YOU MADE INTO THIS MONSTROUS FORM?
ZAAAAA
MONSTROUS FORM..?
BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I WANTED, OF COURSE.

MY MOTHER GAVE BIRTH TO ME IN THE TOILET AND FLUSHED ME INTO THIS STINKING PIT!
ALL I'VE EVER KNOWN IS DECAY!
BLOOP
BLOOP
SWEEK SWEEK
SQUEEEK!
CHOMP
MMCH! MMCH!
BLURP
GULP, GULP


GUGU
DECAY... AND LONGING! HOW I YEARNED FOR THE BUSTLE OF THE CITY ABOVE GROUND.
AHA! AHA! AHA-A-A!

YO, HERE'S A HUGE SEWER RAT.
Heh, heh
TAANK
AHA!
GYAAA!
FWHOOOOSH
HYA, HA, HA. HE'S RUNNING THAT WAY!
THD THD THD
BURN HIM! BURN HIM!
FWISH
SPLOSSH
AGUUU...
AGUUU!
UH...
ONCE WOUNDED, I BECAME LIKE MY ENVIRONMENT-- MY BODY BEGAN TO ROT ALIVE.
AGU...
TWISHH TWISH
HEEEE!

...
I-I DON'T WANT TO DIE
TWUK
OR MUST I JUST BECOME MUSH, DISSOLVING AWAY...
WILL ANYONE KNOW I'VE LIVED?
...WITH NO ONE TO REMEMBER ME...
SOMEONE! ANSWER ME E-E-E...
I'M HERE... I'M HERE, ALI-I-I-VE...
SOMEONE...
SOMEONE, NOTICE ME...


BLOOP
BLOOP
BLUB
TAP TAP
YOU'RE LUCKY.
YOU WERE DYING IN THE SEWER--I SAVED YOU...
...BUT YOUR ORIGINAL BODY WASN'T SALVAGE-ABLE.
HEH. HEH..
SO...I'LL GIVE YOU A NEW BODY-- AS A PRESENT.
SHOW ME THE DESIRE THAT LIES HIDDEN AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART...
...AND I'LL MAKE YOU A PERSONALIZED BODY, FITTING TO THAT DESIRE.

HE WAS MARKED LIKE IDO--ON HIS FOREHEAD !?
WHERE IS THAT DOCTOR NOW?
I DON'T KNOW... I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE THEN...
I WAS MAD WITH JOY AT THE MAGGOT BODY THAT MAN GAVE ME, AND I SET OUT INTO THE WORLD ABOVE GROUND.
...STEALING OTHER PEOPLE'S BODIES IN ORDER TO LIVE, AND EATING OTHER PEOPLE'S BRAINS TO SOOTHE THE PAIN...
DESTROYING THINGS WAS MY WAY OF ASSURING MYSELF THAT I WAS ALIVE AND DOING SOMETHING.
THERE WAS NO ONE WHO TRIED TO STOP ME.

NO ONE HEARD MY CRIES
NOTHING HAD CHANGED SINCE THE TIME I LAY DYING IN THE SEWER
THAT'S WHERE I WAS...
..ALITA.. WHEN YOU APPEARED
DESPISE ME!
SMASH ME TO PIECES!
BURN MY SOUL TO A CINDER!!

AHH.. YES..
AT LAST MY WISH HAS COME.. TRUE..
TWSSSHHHH
TWUUSH
SHWUUSH

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S A SIN OR SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF
TK TK TK
IF IT IS HATRED OR SADNESS
BUT I AM MOVED TO TEARS--BY SOMETHING I CAN'T EXACTLY EXPLAIN...

FINIS